HONTOF CITY DEMOCRAT 25-7-1907

dress on a package

Took It Literally.

From Success Magazine.

It is told of the late Chauncey Shafer, who bears the same relation to New York's "anecdotage" that Sydney Smith does to London's, that he employed in his law office a stunted youth of very tractable temperament.

One day Mr Shafer returned from lunch in a lively mood, and by token of the Medeira he had consumed, summoned Billy into his private office.

"Boy," he said, carelessly, "go over to the Special Term and see what in h— they're up to there.

The late Judge Brady was presiding over the trial of an action involving many interesting questions of substantive law Hence, the courtroom was empty save for the litigants, their counsel, and the necessary witnesses. Judge Brady's kindliness toward women and children was proverbial, and when Billy stood against the railing of the inclosure, his face barely reaching over the balustrade, the judge noticed him immediately. He interrupted the arguments of counsel and turned to Billy.

"Well, my lad," he said, in in suave, judicial accents, "what can I do for you?"

"I'm from Mr Shafer's office," Billy replied, "and he wants to know what in h— you're up to over here."

Conditions on Mars.

From "The Call of Another

ty-grams there. A man is only able to carry his own weight on his back. Transported to Mars, he could carry three times as much, something like two hundred and twenty-five kilos. In taking observations of Mars through the telescope, one can see a distinct red disk, marked with more or less brilliant spots. Some of the spots which are greenish are the oceans, other very red ones are the continents, greater in extent than the oceans, which is the opposite to the way the earth is disposed The most brilliant spots are the ice-covered regions of the poles, and the clouds are almost equally bright. The atmosphere of Mars is more transparent than ours, and its sky is incomparably clear.

The waters of Mars are more divided and distributed in inland seas joined by long arms, which are sometimes incurving, but oftenest almost rectilinear, and which mark the brilliant surface of the planet with dark lines, just as the line of lead divides the panes of glass in our church windows. All these dark lines form a pattern which is relatively symmetrical, and which does not seem to have been made by chance. A plan so regular must have been designed, and for a long time the observers of Mars have been disposed to consider these lines as canals dug by the inhabitants of the planet for the needs of their civilization.

Bad

World," by Charles Torquet in the August Metropolitan Magazine.

The days in Mars are of about the same length as ours: 24 hours, 39 minutes, 28 seconds. Mars makes her orbit around the sun in a little more than 686 days, therefore the seasons are almost twice as long as they are with us. The atmosphere of Mars is rich in watery vapors. Oceans can be seen, and at the poles thick ice, which melts when summer comes. The variations in temperature are extreme. Mars receives only half as much solar heat as our globe does. The sun appears half as large, and the nights receive their light from the two moons, which are smaller than ours—Deimos and Phobos.

The weight is such that one of our kilograms would only weigh three hundred and sev en-

Some things appear to be necessary evils. For instance, just as sure as the Katy railroad puts, places or camps a large body of its extra gang, Greeks, negroes or what not at this point, just that sure does hell break loose. Last week's trouble in this city is an example of it.

"Roosevelt's deformed spelling received its death-blow Thursday out at Los Angeles when the National Educational Association resolved to resume the old-time spelling of the words "though," "through" and "thorough." This is the last straw to break the bronco's back as those three words were the only ones which seemed to need any sort of simplification. And now even they are restored to safety and sanity and Oyster Bay is being churned into frenzied fury by an irate and baffled Bombastes Furioso."

Torna all'Emeroteca
Torna all'Home Page

IDENTIKIT DEI MARZIANI

da *The Bisbee Daily Review* del 18-6-1922

Sunday Morning, June 18, 1922 THE BISBEE DAILY RE

Supervisors to Take Up Redistricting of Judicial Precincts

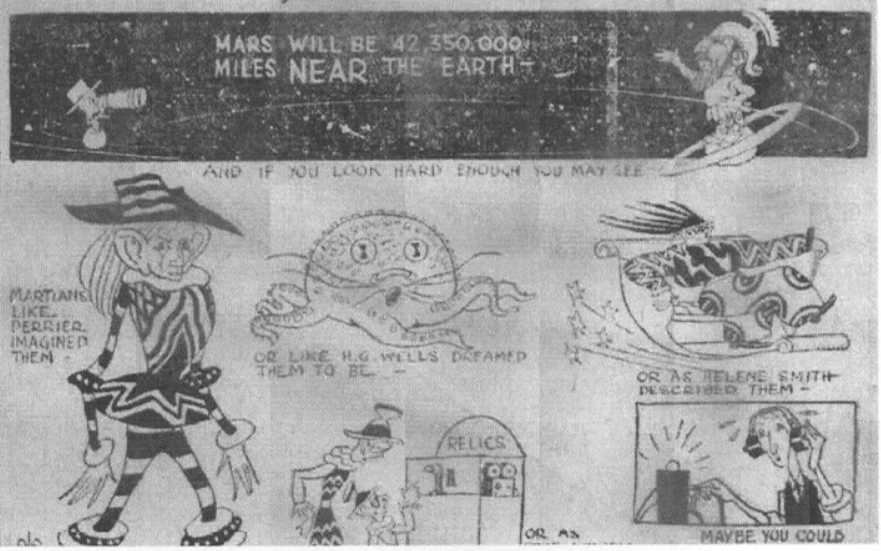
At the meeting of the board of supervisors to be held next Monday the matter of redistricting the judicial precincts of the county will be taken up, having been postponed from the last meeting of the board in order to allow the taxpayers of the various precincts to appear and make protest if they desire. It is the intention of the board, it is understood, to greatly reduce the number of judicial precincts in the county, due to the fact that statistics compiled for several years back show that the amount of criminal and civil business in the county precincts does not justify the number of precincts at present existing. If the plan purposed is put into effect it will mean the saving of thousands of dollars annually to the taxpayers of the county. It is pointed out, by cutting off practically two thirds of the present precinct officials.

THEY WEREN'T SO SLOW THEN

From the death notices of a New York paper, January 31, 1894:

"In England, John Tucker, a soldier in Ashford Barracks. He died at 4 o'clock in the morning; before 12 in the same day his widow was married

Monsieur Mars Has a Date With Mother Ear This Tomorrow, Is Closest To Us Since 19



Mars is going to take a close look at Bisbee Sunday evening, June 18.

And by the same token Bisbeeites are going to take a close look at Mars —the closest since 1909!

By Sunday night Mars will be 8,000,000 miles nearer the earth than it was a month ago. Proving Mars as a speeder certainly stirs up the star dust!

But you needn't fear Mars will skid at some celestial corner and knock a planetary neighbor.

"Dreams are not a crime," he said, "and in this case contradiction is difficult."

The Martian, according to him, bore some resemblance to man, but he had tremendous ears, a large chest and thin legs, with scarcely any neck at all.

In America the greatest exponent of the theory that Mars is inhabited was the late Professor Percival Low-

Miss Williams and Ralph McBride Are Married Wednesday

One of the prettiest weddings of the season was that of Miss Elinor B. Williams, of Lowell, to Ralph H. Mc-

Mars is going to take a close look at Bisbee Sunday evening, June 18.

And by the same token Bisbeeites are going to take a close look at Mars—the closest since 1909!

By Sunday night Mars will be 8,000,000 miles nearer the earth than it was a month ago. Proving Mars as a speeder certainly stirs up the star dust!

But you needn't fear Mars will skid at some celestial corner and knock a fender off the earth. For Mars will come within only 42,350,000 miles of the planet to which we hold title, before he curves away again.

If Mars were to hesitate at that 42,350,000—mile mark while you travelled from here to there on an airplane doing 200 miles an hour, he would have to wait 24 1-2 years for you to arrive!

Medium Visits Mars

Only one earth-being ever thought seriously of travelling to Mars. Captain Claude Collins planned to ride a sky-rocket thither. But he couldn't get a rocket large enough.

However, a famous French medium Mademoiselle Helene Smith, says she projected her soul to Mars. There she saw:

"Carriages without horses or wheels emitting sparks as they glided by; houses with fountains on the roofs; a cradle having for curtains an angel made of iron withoutstretched wings."

She also brought back the latest fashion notes from the Martians:

"The people," she said, "were much like the inhabitants of the earth, save that both sexes wore the same clothes—trousers," very ample, and long blouses drawn tight about the waist and decorated with various designs."

Their language had a pleasant intonation, according to the mademoiselle. Four words that she remembered when she came down to earth were:

Meliche, meaning My.
Medache, meaning Mrs.
Metaaganiche, meaning Miss.
Kin't che, meaning four.

But H. G. Wells evidently didn't think much of the psychic's description. In his "War of the Worlds," he said that the Martians resembled cuttlefish with round, gray bodies and "sort of faces."

Edmond Perrier, a Parisian scientist, constructed the most detailed picture of the inhabitants of our nearest planetary neighbor.

"Dreams are not a crime," he said, "and in this case contradiction is difficult."

The Martian, according to him, bore some resemblance to man, but he had tremendous ears, a large chest and thin legs, with scarcely any neck at all.

In America the greatest exponent of the theory that Mars is inhabited was the late Professor Percival Lowell, director of the Harvard observatory at Flagstaff, Ariz.

"The Martian folk," he wrote, "are possessed of inventions of which we have never dreamed. With them the electrophone and kinetoscope are things of the byrone past, preserved with veneration in museums as relics of the clumsy contrivances of the simple childhood of the race."

Scientists Disagree

But other scientists disagree. They think there is nothing but very little water and a thin layer of air on the planet.

"There has been absolutely no determination of life on Mars," says Dr. C. S. Brainin of Columbia University.

But Professor William H. Pickering of Harvard says that the weather there is fine—

Especially during the summer.

A SOCIETY GAME

Jud Tunkins says the police are so strict about gambling that the only chance to lose your money is to play bridge whist.—Washington Star.

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HOW MANY POUNDS WOULD YOU LIKE TO GAIN IN A WEEK?

If you are thin and want to gain weight I will send you a sample of the famous Alexander Vitamines absolutely Free. Do not send any money—just your name and address to Alexander Laboratories, 3183 Gateway Station, Kansas City, Mo.

Business Man Sings Praises

"I suffered for years with stomach trouble and gas continually. Doctors thought I had stomach ulcers or cancer. After last attack they advised going to Rochester, Minn., for an operation. A friend advised trying Mayr's

Torna all'Emeroteca
Torna all'Home Page

MISTERI MARZIANI

da *The Coconino Sun* del 21-10-1921

SNOW FALLING AT ISIDIS, MARS, SAY ASTRONOMERS

New York.—Rocket, radio, or camera—which will be first to lay bare the secret of Mars?

Of course it isn't at all certain that any one of the three will prove a successful Sherlock Holmes of the skies but scientists, lured on by an age-old curiosity concerning our neighboring planets, are pressing along all three paths.

The latest development to set the scientific world again agog over the old question of whether there was life on Mars was the announcement from Paris of R. McAfee, American scientist and Professor David Todd, American astronomer, that they purposed to snap-shoot the planet by using an abandoned mine-shaft in Chile as the barrel for a telescope.

Only a short time before Signor Marconi, of wireless fame, had put a kick of interest in the most fantastic of scientific inquiries by suggesting that a radio signal of 150,000 meters which he had picked up might have come from some Martian armed with a mammoth sending set.

But it was left to Professor Robert H. Goddard of Clark College in Worcester, Mass., to suggest making an investigation of the moon by means of a multiple-charge, high efficiency rocket, capable of carrying cameras or other recording apparatus needed to explore the unknown regions of the upper air. As the claim was made that a rocket could be constructed of unlimited cruising power, it has been suggested that it might be shot up to Mars instead of the moon, which many scientists affirm is uninhabited. One or two daring individuals even have volunteered to be shot up in place of a camera.

The possibility that some folk might be wandering up and down the valleys of Mars has excited the curiosity of astronomers and laymen throughout all the ages for Mars is the nearest planet to the earth and the easiest to observe.

Imaginative writers took their readers on trips to the moon and laid the scenes of their stories in the surroundings of Mars, Saturn and other planets but there was little scientific knowledge to furnish a basis for such fiction.

The perfecting of the high powered telescope and the adaption of photography to the uses of the astronomers quickened their interest in the possibility of life on another world. Mars, which was seen to have large areas of bluish green and other areas of an ochre red, with patches of white at the poles, was believed by many astronomers to be capable of supporting life in some form.

Schiaparelli, an Italian astronomer, announced in 1871 that he had found the surface of the planet scarred by many lines which were perfectly straight and seemed to have some system like vast engineering works. He called the lines canals and said he believed they had been constructed and were not simply cracks in the surface of the planet.

Professor Percival Lowell erected an observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, many years ago and commenced a systematic observation of Mars. More than 10 years ago he startled the world by expressing his belief that Mars was inhabited by intelligent organisms living in a civilization much farther advanced than ours.

The canals, he said, were really big ditches bringing water from the poles to irrigate the rest of the planet. The ochre red areas on the surface of Mars, he asserted, were deserted, were deserts or fallow fields which became bluish green as the water flowed along the canals in the seasons.

Later, he said that he had watched the bluish green area, denoting land springing to life with the coming of the water, spread down the northern hemisphere along the borders of the canals to beyond the equator of the planet and then gradually turn reddish brown with the waning of the season. The water, he claimed, was from ice melting on the polar caps of the planet.

Other scientists took the opposite point of view. Some said the canals were only cracks in the surface of the planet filled with sand, impregnated with salts of various kinds, which became dark or light to the observer according to its moisture content. The temperature on Mars, they said, was too cold to support life of any kind.

Lowell retorted that his observations showed that the average temperature of Mars is 47 degrees Fahrenheit. The regularity of the canals; their even spacing; the accuracy with which they made a great circle such as navigators employ on a curved surface thousands of miles in extent; the manner in which some of the canals were paralleled at certain points and the regularity of the space at the intersections all testified, he asserted, to the artificial nature of the canals and justified the belief that they were made by scientific organisms of high intelligence.

More than 500 canals and cases, as Lowell claimed the spots to be, have been mapped out and their names are so well known that Harvard Observatory announced last April that snow had been observed falling at Isidis in the district of Syrtis Major, Mars. It was held by some that the canals had been developed to signal the earth which must appear to the Martians as of immense size, being nine times bigger than Mars.

With the development of wireless telegraphy several attempts have been made to get into communication with Mars with high-powered apparatus. Signor Marconi gave encouragement to that field of research recently, when he announced that in the course of experimenting he had picked up a signal with a wave length of 150,000 meters, about six times as long as any commercial apparatus in use today. Marconi said the letter V had been repeated several times in international code. He suggested that possibly the inhabitants of Mars were trying to get into communication with the earth.

Two engineers of Omaha devoted two weeks of their time recently to listening for signals from Mars. They kept their apparatus tuned to catch such a message as Marconi described but heard nothing.

Controversy has run high over the bold proposal of Messrs. R. McAfee and Todd. A mine shaft in the Chilean Andes, which will point directly at Mars in 1924, will provide the barrel of their telescope, then announced, and a big pan of mercury revolving at high speed in the bottom will provide the mirror. The two Americans calculate that the surface of Mars will be magnified at least 25,000,000 times, bringing it within a few miles of their cameras.

The mine shaft will be widened to 50 feet in diameter and sheathed. The pool of mercury at the bottom will be revolved at such high speed that it will assume a concave shape and become a mirror. The depth of the fortunately placed shaft is so great that there will be sufficient luminosity, the two scientists said, to enable them to take snapshots instead of time exposures.

The Goddard proposals for aerial investigation also includes use of cameras. To summarize his principle, the determining factor of the efficiency of a secret is the velocity of the ejection of gases due to the explosion of propelling material. By increasing this velocity, through increasing the proportion of the propelling material to weight of projectile and through a greatly improved nozzle shaped passage for the escape of gases, Professor Goddard claims to have raised the efficiency of the rocket to nearly 64 per cent.

Many investigators are convinced that life exists on Mars and expect to prove it with the novel telescope. What they will find on their photographic plates is the object of speculation by scientific men the world over.

Lowell has said that Mars is level and uninteresting with no mountains and only a few dried-up beds of shallow seas to diversify its topography. More than one-half of it is desert land and the rest is only green when the canals are bringing water from the polar ice caps. Dust storms which blot out hundreds of square miles of the planet's surface from the view of scientific observers sweep over its equatorial section.

The physical conditions of Mars are entirely different from those we know on earth. The force of gravity exerted by Mars is only three-eighths that of the earth while the atmospheric pressure that is about 15 pounds to the square inch at sea level on our world is less than four pounds on Mars. The air is very thin and no known animal could live on it. These conditions, however, make it possible for great weights to be lifted with little effort.

Lowell computed that the Martians could do seven times more work than human beings could accomplish, with the same amount of effort. A human observer on Mars, he said, would be impressed by the slowness and flatness of his surroundings.

An elephant could leap like a gazelle in such an atmosphere, he said; water would flow with a hesitant lazy current and a stone thrown into the air would sink with graceful moderation to the ground. He made no attempt to describe how the Martians might appear to worldlings but he said they would not resemble human beings.

The Martian day is 20 minutes longer than ours but the seasons are twice as long. Lowell asserted that Mars was slowly dying for want of water and the canals had been built in an epic struggle of the Martians to maintain life. He suggested that the spots observed at the intersections of some of the canals might be cities built up around points where the greatest amount of water could be concentrated by the canals.

FURTHER GAINS PREDICTED FOR KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

Based on the gain in individual membership and the number of lodges of the Knights of Pythias during the calendar year 1920, the next annual gathering of the order will show another gratifying increase, it is said. An interesting fact being pointed out by grand lodge offcers of the Knights of Pythias is that the financial development of the order is keeping pace with its numerical growth.

The assets of the grand and subordinate lodges combined showed a remarkable increase during last year, while the great sum of $1,766,211 was paid out by subordinate lodges for relief. Other figures suggesting the financial scope of the order include $5,097,000 in current expenses for the lodges and $1,088,000 in permanent investments.

ENFORCING PROHIBITION COSTS MANY MILLIONS

Enforcement of prohibition throughout the country cost the government $8,250,005 during the last fiscal year, it was revealed in a statement given out at prohibition headquarters.

Statistics compiled from the records in Washington showed that the expenditure was offset by assessments involving civil penalties, special taxes, etc., of $53,296,998, of which only $2,152,278 was collected. The value of seized property was appraised at $10,906,687. Several million dollars additional, it was said, will accrue from fines being compiled. Salaries and traveling costs comprised the chief items of expense in enforcing the law.

New Brands Applied for October 8, 1921

Name of Applicant:

Torna all'Emeroteca
Torna all'Home Page

HARTFORD REPUBLICAN 12-3-1920

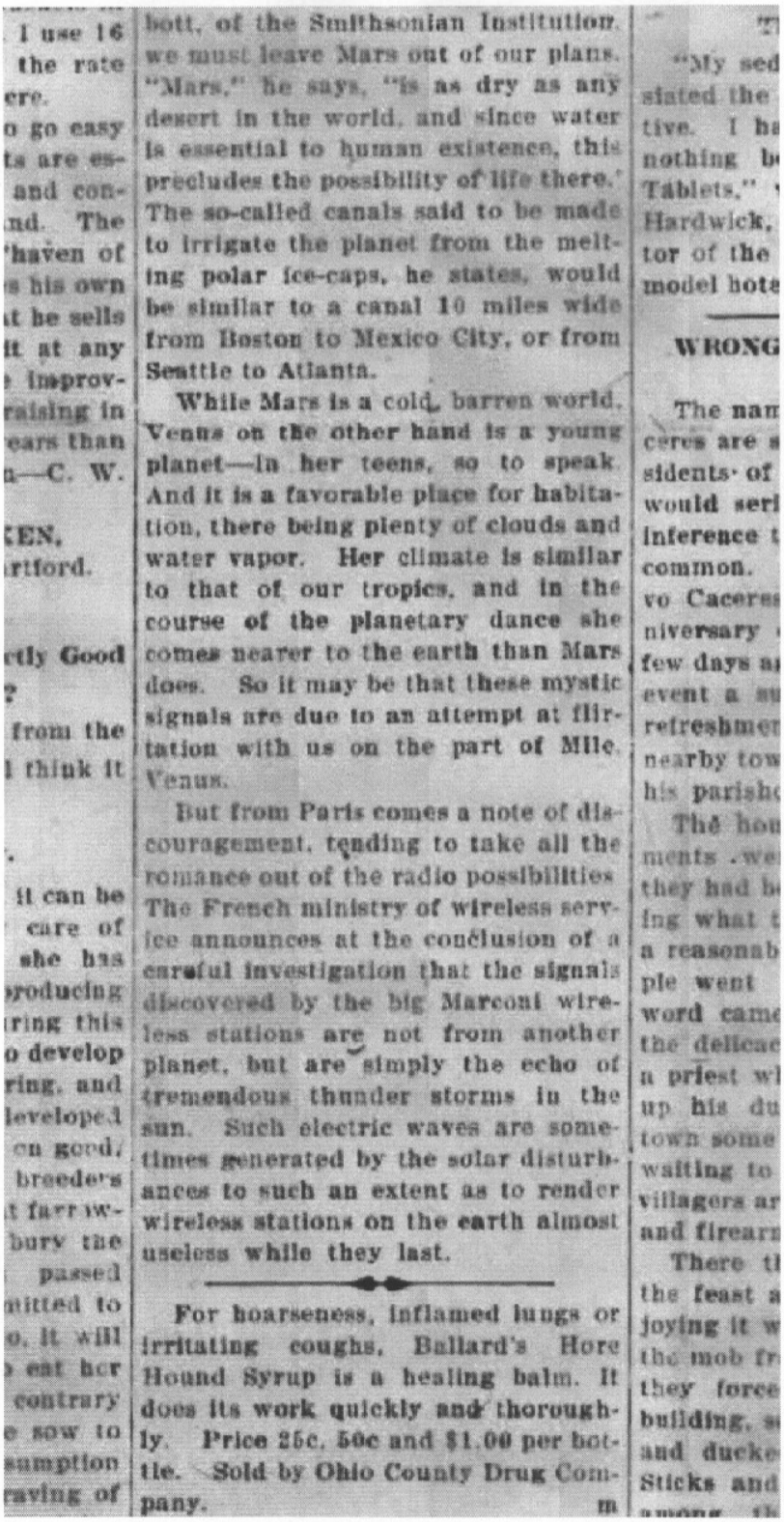
NO NEWS HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM MARS!

Though the world remains a-tingle with expectancy and teeming with plans to communicate with the other planets no actual messages have as yet passed either way. From Australia comes a report, however, that the mysterious signals are now directed at their side of the world, Europe evidently having been given up as incompetent. In these signals is a constant repetition of the two dashes that form the letter M, and they come on wave lengths of 80,000 to 120,000 meters—such lengths as have never yet been used by any station on earth.

An Englishwoman, writing to Marconi, claims to have made a close study of the subject and to have come to the conclusion that the strange signals come from the souls of wireless operators who have gone to other planets. This view should cause the scientists and the spiritualists to work together on the problem. Mr. Marconi has announced his intention of framing the letter as a scientific curio.

Our electrical "wizard" Thomas A. Edison, thinks that we have machinery powerful enough to send a message to Mars, but he doubts that the inhabitants of that planet have instruments sufficiently delicate to receive our signals. Sir Oliver Lodge, however, thinks the best way to try to communicate with the other planets is to describe an immense geometrical figure on the Sahara desert. Geometry, he says, is a universal science, and he thinks the chances are that the people of Mars have magnifying instruments sufficiently powerful to make out the figures.

In the meantime Prof. Robert H. Goddard is working on a repeating rocket which may be sent on an exploring expedition to the edge of the earth's atmosphere, or, if desirable, on to the moon, or to Mars. The rocket is to contain a series arranged to explode in relay one after another. But according to Dr. Charles C. Ab-



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bott, of the Smithsonian Institution, we must leave Mars out of our plans. "Mars," he says, "is as dry as any desert in the world, and since water is essential to human existence, this precludes the possibility of life there." The so-called canals said to be made to irrigate the planet from the melting polar ice-caps, he states, would be similar to a canal 10 miles wide from Boston to Mexico City, or from Seattle to Atlanta.

While Mars is a cold, barren world, Venus on the other hand is a young planet—in her teens, so to speak. And it is a favorable place for habitation, there being plenty of clouds and water vapor. Her climate is similar to that of our tropics, and in the course of the planetary dance she comes nearer to the earth than Mars does. So it may be that these mystic signals are due to an attempt at flirtation with us on the part of Mlle. Venus.

But from Paris comes a note of discouragement, tending to take all the romance out of the radio possibilities. The French ministry of wireless service announces at the conclusion of a careful investigation that the signals discovered by the big Marconi wireless stations are not from another planet, but are simply the echo of tremendous thunder storms in the sun. Such electric waves are sometimes generated by the solar disturbances to such an extent as to render wireless stations on the earth almost useless while they last.

For hoarseness, inflamed lungs or irritating coughs, Ballard's Horehound Syrup is a healing balm. It does its work quickly and thoroughly. Price 25c, 50c and $1.00 per bottle. Sold by Ohio County Drug Company. m

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Torna all'Emeroteca
Torna all'Home Page

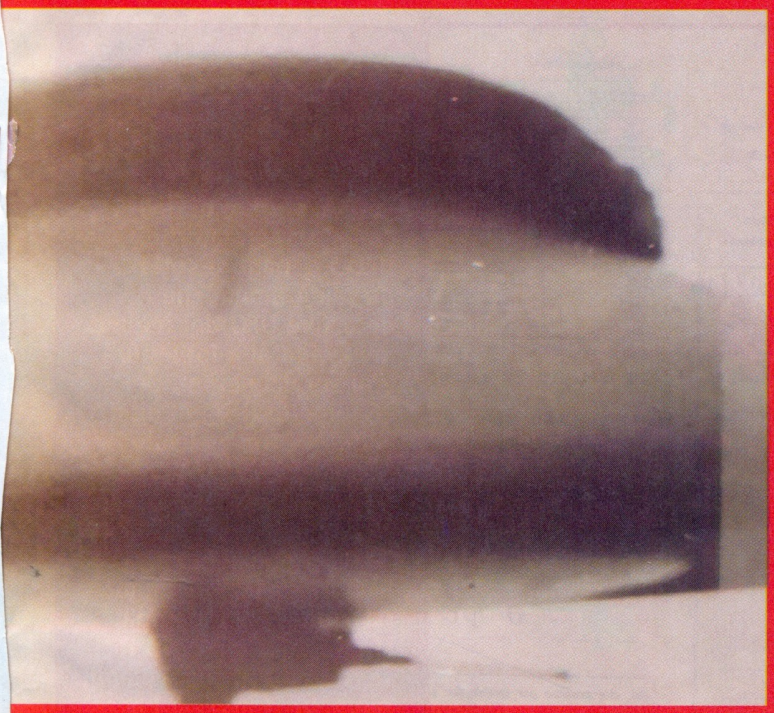
L'ECCEZIONALE RITROVAMENTO DI DOCUMENTI D'EPOCA DIMOSTRA CH

Gli X-Files di MUSSOLINI

Chi pensa che l'ufologia storica sia nata negli anni Quaranta in America, si sbaglia. I primi a scoprire i dischi volanti furono i fascisti, che li studiarono a Roma negli anni Trenta. I nazisti si spinsero più oltre, cercando persino di costruire un UFO...

Una notte tra il marzo e l'aprile del 1937. Il caporalmaggiore dell'Aeronautica Militare Pasquale Colamonici di Bagnoli era in servizio presso l'aeroporto di Capodichino quando, improvvisamente, scorse nel cielo terso una strana luce, diretta verso il Vesuvio. Oltre a Colamonici c'era anche l'intero reparto di sorveglianza, che lanciò immediatamente l'allarme. Ma il misterioso ordigno sfrecciò via lasciando tutti a bocca aperta. A Napoli, in quel momento, due "agenti delle imposte di consumo" (i finanzie-

IL DUCE E I GERARCHI FASCISTI SI INTERESSARONO AI DISCHI VOLANTI



Sopra e a fianco due rare foto di dischi costruiti dal Terzo Reich: la loro autenticità è però dubbia. Durante la Seconda guerra mondiale, le aeronautiche dei due schieramenti avvistarono in cielo dischi volanti, come si vede nelle due foto in alto a destra, scattate in Giappone e in America. Ogni volta le parti in causa pensarono ad aerei segreti del nemico. Nell'altra pagina, alcuni dei membri del "Gabinetto RS/33".

ri di una volta), Giuseppe Renzi e Michele Agocella, stavano pattugliando l'aeroporto di Capodichino, impegnati in un'azione di repressione del contrabbando. Improvvisamente sentirono gridare: «Le guardie, scappiamo!». Renzi, impugnata la pistola, puntò il fascio di luce della torcia elettrica ma, anziché trovarsi di fronte a dei contrabbandieri, vide di fronte a sè un disco volante posato al suolo, grande quanto un autobus, con tre file di oblò ed alcune fiammelle attorno. Non appena la luce della torcia illuminò l'ordigno, l'UFO divenne di luce argentea e iniziò ad emettere un ronzio «come quello di un citofono», dissero i due testimoni oculari. Renzi, a quel punto, se la diede a gambe levate, terrorizzato.

L'episodio finì nei dossier dell'intelligence fascista. All'epoca ne furono al corrente solo in pochi, ma già nel ventennio l'OVRA, la polizia segreta di Mussolini, aveva saputo degli UFO e li stava studiando in gran segreto!

Il fantomatico "Mister X"

A rivelarcelo è stato uno studioso di storia fascista, che ha chiesto l'anonimato e che abbiamo ribattezzato "Mister X". Legato alla famiglia di Galeazzo Ciano, quest'uomo è stato l'erede di un voluminoso dossier steso da uno dei detective UFO di Mussolini. "Mister X", che oggi vive in Francia, a partire dal 1996 ha fatto avere a più riprese a ufologi e a giornalisti materiale in originale e in fotocopia riferito ad una serie di segnalazioni UFO avvenute durante il Ventennio.

Si tratta di un corposo resoconto sugli avvistamenti di ordigni alieni nei cieli d'Italia tra il 1933 e il 1940, alcuni dei quali catalogati dalla Regia Aviazione, con la raccomandazione di «non dire nulla al Duce», per paura che potessero trattarsi di armi nemiche. "Mister X", a riprova della genuinità del materiale inviato, ha anche accluso biglietti e carteggi d'epoca (periziati nel 1999 dal chimico Antonio Garavaglia del Tribunale di Como e risultati autentici) e una busta indirizzata testualmente «a mani di Ciano» (il genero di Mussolini, poi potente ministro degli Esteri), un memorandum per una riunione di un non meglio precisato "Gabinetto RS/33" e una lunga lettera circa l'avvistamento di un sigaro volante sopra Venezia e Mestre, avvenuto la mattina del 17 agosto 1936. Quell'episodio era stato ricostruito graficamente in un paio di fogli: si vedeva un sigaro (definito "torpedine") con accanto due sfere inseguite da un caccia. Non ci potevano essere dubbi: si trattava di un documento originale su un avvistamento UFO ante-litteram!

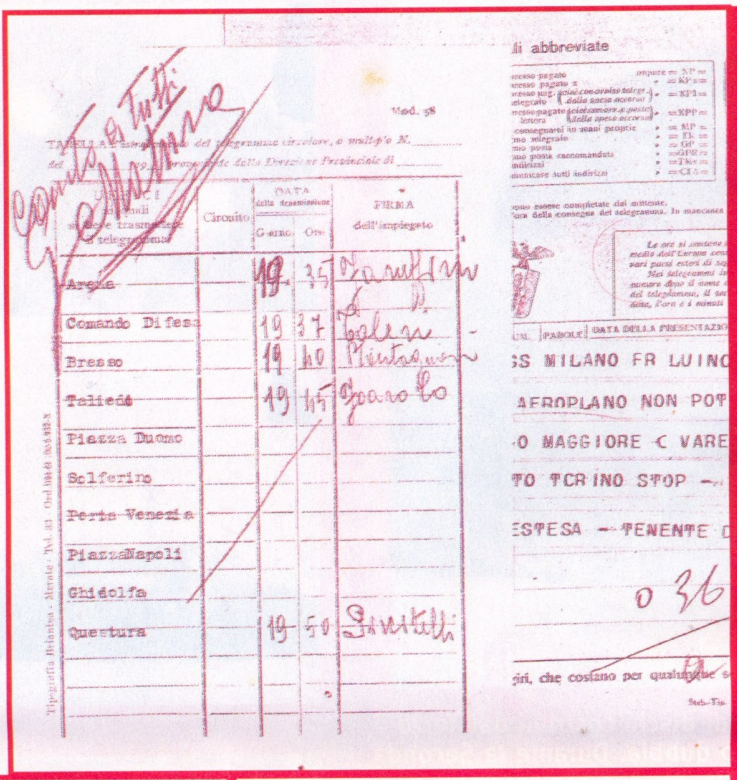
Il gabinetto UFO

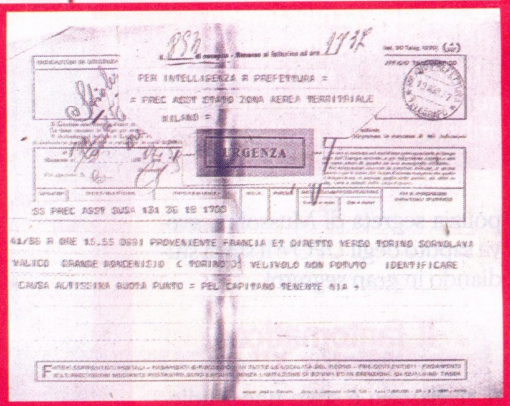
Ma le sorprese non erano finite. Un successivo invio effettuato da "Mister X" permise di ricostruire una vicenda assai più articolata dei semplici avvistamenti UFO. Nel giugno del 1933 un disco volante si sarebbe schiantato in

22-11-06

AI PREFETTI FU DATA DISPOSIZIONE DI AVVERTIRE IMMEDIATAMENTE IN

Lombardia (presumibilmente nelle campagne intorno a Magenta). La polizia segreta, immediatamente allertata, avrebbe provveduto al rastrellamento e all'insabbiamento della notizia: chi sapeva fu messo a tacere, internato in manicomio, e ai giornali fu imposto il silenzio, pena la chiusura. A seguito dell'eccezionale ritrovamento (non sappiamo se l'ordigno contenesse anche piloti; forse era solo telecomandato), a Roma fu istituita in tutta fretta una commissione di studio segretissima, composta dalle migliori menti scientifiche dell'epoca. Il loro scopo fu quello di capire se quelle "macchine volanti" fossero amiche o nemiche, opera di alleati o di avversari (inglesi e francesi) e, soprattutto, stabilire se fosse possibile ricostruirle, per realizzare un vero e proprio disco volante fascista





Un disco volante venne provato nel cielo di Praga nel 1944?

Un ingegnere tedesco intervistato in Svizzera: vuole costruire un prototipo e farlovolare

Ginevra, 10 novembre [illegible]

—Ing. Klein, ex membro del ministero dell'aria del terzo Reich, che lavorò agli ordini di Speer e che era presente a esperimenti delle armi segrete tedesche, ha dichiarato in un colloquio con il giornale «Tages Anzeiger» di Zurigo, che secondo lui non avrebbe i dischi volanti non sono una realtà.

—Ing. Klein è stato intervistato a Zurigo ed ha dichiarato di sopprimere in Svizzera prima, a un modello ridotto di disco volante azionato da energia elettrica. Quando avrà risolto i fondi necessari ha intenzione di costruire un prototipo che potrà permettere di accogliere a bordo due o tre persone».

—Rispondendo alle domande dei segmenti che formano allora un disco. Questo è in seguito messo in movimento da due grandi aggregati a reazione in cui velocità è regolata in funzione della quantità di benzina utilizzata. Contrariamente agli aerei normali, questi dischi non sono diretti da timoni di direzione, ma indipendenti dal cambiamento di direzione degli aggregati a reazione.

— E' vero che esistono oggi differenti sistemi di costruzione per i dischi volanti?

— Oggi se ne utilizzano due, che si distinguono principalmente dal diametro del disco. Gli uni hanno un diametro di 16 metri e gli altri di un diametro di 42 metri. Questo spiega le conversazioni nel cielo di piccoli e grandi dischi volanti. In un ma delle cabine a pressione ermetiche. Nel disco volante gli uomini sono difesi dalle influenze esterne grazie a delle cabine speciali a pressione regolabile.

— I costruttori che hanno lavorato al modello nella stazione di prova di Praga sono ancora in vita?

— L'ing. Schriever è morto l'anno scorso in Brema. Aveva lavorato a queste costruzioni con il famoso professore italiano Beltrando che è morto due anni fa. Un terzo costruttore che aveva partecipato, secondo, certo Miethe, si trova attualmente oltre Atlantico.

— Quali sono le sue conclusioni in base ai fatti che tutte le informazioni relative alla costituzione di dischi volanti siano giunte in un unico tempo

★ ★ Giovedì 20 Aprile 1950

I piatti volanti non sono una novità

HITLER CONOSCEVA

il segreto dei dischi

In una riunione tenuta nell'anno 1942 lo Stato Maggiore nazista discusse a lungo sulla probabilità d'impiego di questa nuova arma aerea

A fianco, un documento della Prefettura milanese sulla costituzione, nel ventennio, di una "rete" di cacciatori di UFO a Milano e sotto, un telegramma che i detective UFO del regime inviavano alla Prefettura e ai servizi segreti del "Gabinetto RS/33" ogni volta che un "velivolo non convenzionale" sorvolava i cieli italiani. Nel dopoguerra molti membri delle commissioni UFO nazifasciste hanno raccontato alla stampa che Hitler conosceva il segreto dei dischi volanti, come mostrano (in basso) i due ritagli di giornali dell'epoca. Con quegli stessi dischi volanti, il Führer avrebbe voluto bombardare New York. nell'altra foto a sinistra, la ricostruzione di uno dei dischi nazisti che avrebbero effettuato voli di prova sul Baltico nel 1944.

da impiegare in guerra! Tutto ciò emerge dall'invio frammentario del materiale di Mister X. Il primo plico consisteva in una serie di fotocopie a colori: tre telegrammi dell'Agenzia Stefani (l'Ansa fascista) di Milano, che intimavano, per ordine del Duce, di recuperare il disco volante atterrato il 13 giugno del '33; una carta senatoriale che descriveva punto per punto la strategia da adottarsi dopo il recupero: censura sui giornali, arresto dei testimoni mediante l'intervento degli uomini dell'OVRA, ideazione di una serie di spiegazioni convenzionali (palloni sonda, meteore, pareli) da dare eventualmente in pasto al pubblico curioso, per mezzo dell'Osservatorio astronomico

di Milano Brera, controllo di tutta la vicenda attraverso il prefetto. Vi era, infine, un bigliettino che invitava un misterioso "De Santis" (probabilmente la spia fascista Tommaso David detto "De Santis") al silenzio sulle attività del Gabinetto RS/33.

Di quest'ultimo organismo scoprimmo, poi, grazie ai successivi invii, che fu dislocato all'interno dell'Università la Sapienza di Roma e coordinato dal fisico Guglielmo Marconi (noto anche per essere un convinto assertore dell'esistenza dei "marziani" che, però, non vi avrebbe preso parte attiva, designando in sua vece l'astronomo torinese Gino Cecchini). Il Gabinetto RS (Ricerche Speciali) 33 (dall'anno in cui fu istituito) avrebbe visto alternarsi al suo interno accademici di tutto rispetto, membri della Regia Accademia delle Scienze: i professori Vallauri, Pirotta, De Blasi, Severi, Bottazzi, Giordani, Crocco. Quest'ultimo, in particolare, è stato il padre della missilistica italiana, un progettista che all'epoca stupì per la sua ossessione nel voler esplorare lo spazio (solo ora ne capiamo il motivo). A dimostrazione di come il comitato agisse seriamente, e persino criminalmente, "Mister X" accluse anche un ritaglio di giornale sulla scomparsa di un pilota francese in Italia (che, scoprimmo, aveva avuto la "sfortuna" di filmare un UFO e di parlarne al Gabinetto RS. Quell'aviatore, infatti, fu fatto sparire nel nulla, assieme alla pellicola. A nulla valsero le proteste del governo d'Oltralpe).

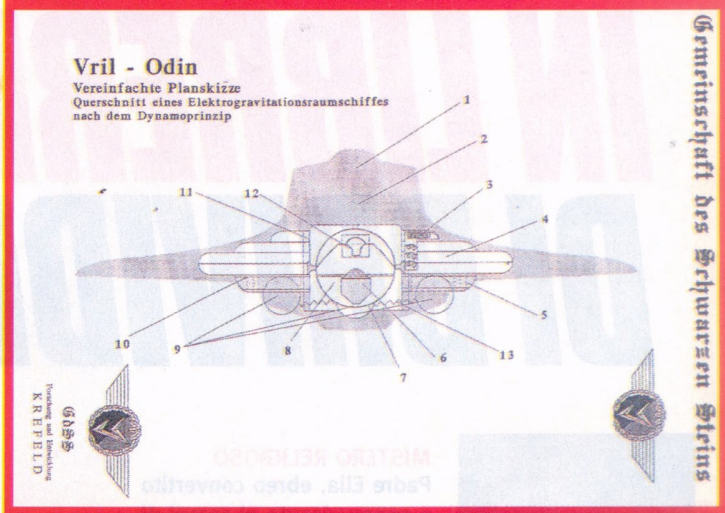
Fascisti su Marte

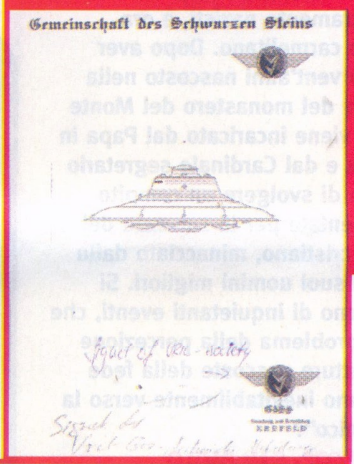
I professori del Gabinetto (di uno di essi, non sappiamo quale, "Mister X" ci ha confidato essere il nipote) studiarono dunque segretamente gli UFO, ricevendo periodicamente rapporti degli avvistamenti da tutt'Italia, tramite le comunicazioni dei servizi segreti e delle Prefetture. Non per nulla, negli archivi della Prefettura di Milano abbiamo trovato due raccoglitori zeppi di telegrammi inviati tra il 1933 e il 1938 alla stessa che riferivano di misteriosi avvistamenti nei cieli italiani. Su circa cinquecento documenti, 68 sono davvero assi strani e almeno nove riguardano casi di UFO propriamente detti. Ciò dimostrerebbe l'interesse del Fascismo nei confronti di quelli che venivano definiti "velivoli non identificabili". Non solo, ma in quei raccoglitori si accennava anche all'esistenza di una "rete" per la raccolta delle segnalazioni, composta da spie dislocate negli aeroporti civili e militari, nelle sedi dei vigili urbani e delle "camicie nere".

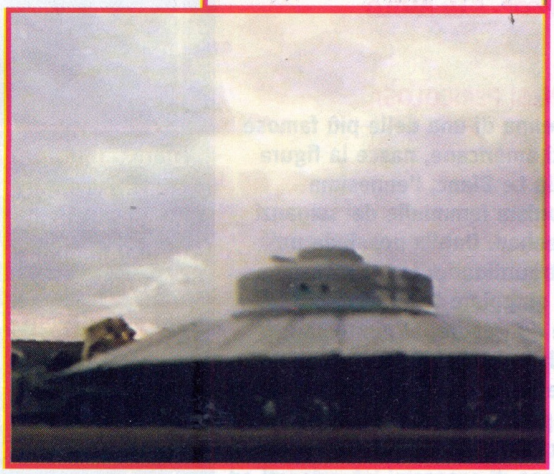
I detective del Gabinetto RS avevano ordine di riferire unicamente alle massime autorità del regime: il Duce, Italo Balbo e Galeazzo Ciano. Solo occasionalmente, però, presero in considerazione l'ipotesi extraterrestre, ossessionati com'erano nel credere a nuove armi segrete degli alleati o dei nemici confinanti. Il regime vedeva allora attorno a sé nemici dappertutto, anche se l'alleato tedesco, già negli anni Trenta, aveva progettato una "ruota volante solare", al punto che si credeva che l'UFO precipitato in Lombardia ne fosse stato lo sviluppo definitivo. Di quel disco oggi non si riesce più a trovare traccia. Sembra che fosse stato occultato nella base aerea di Vergiate, nel varesotto, in un hangar poi incendiato dai partigiani. O, forse, finì a Berlino; infatti, quando Hitler, grazie alle sue spie, venne a sapere del recupero, impose accordi segreti ad un recalcitrante Mussolini, che avrebbe preferito tenere per sé la scoperta, e si fece passare parte della documentazione. D'altronde è stato accertato che, a partire dagli anni Quaranta, Hitler iniziò in Germania e nella Polonia occupata la costruzione di dischi volanti terrestri. Lo ha confermato nel 1950 il professore del Politecnico milanese Giuseppe Belluzzo che, come tecnico italiano, partecipò agli esperimenti congiunti. In tempi più recenti, poi, anche Luigi Romersa, l'esperto militare di fiducia di Mussolini, ha avuto modo di confermare tale notizia. «Nel 1944 io e il Duce incontrammo Hitler presso le officine tedesche della Skoda», ha avuto modo di raccontare Romersa. «Il Führer ci mostrò il disco volante nazista che aveva fatto costruire: era tutto circolare, con una cupola centrale, la cabina, che avrebbe potuto ospitare un solo pilota. L'idea di Hitler era di costruire una flotta di dischi volanti, equipaggiarli con bombe e colpire New York! Ecco perché il Führer, durante un discorso, proclamò: "Dio mi perdoni gli ultimi cinque minuti di guerra!". Ma lo sfondamento del fronte germanico ad opera dei russi mandò a monte quei piani. I nazisti furono costretti a distruggere i prototipi con le bombe e la Germania perse la guerra».

Chissà che cosa sarebbe successo, invece se, grazie alla tecnologia aliena recuperata, i nazifascisti avessero vinto la guerra. Probabilmente il mondo, come lo conosciamo oggi, non sarebbe mai esistito.

Alfredo Lissoni







Sopra e a fianco, la ricostruzione di due prototipi progettati dagli ingegneri del Reich negli anni Quaranta. In basso a sinistra, un altro prototipo, con il quale Hitler avrebbe voluto rovesciare l'esito della guerra.

L'AERONAUTICA MILITARE HA RECENTEMENTE RESO PUBBLICI I DOSSIER SUGL

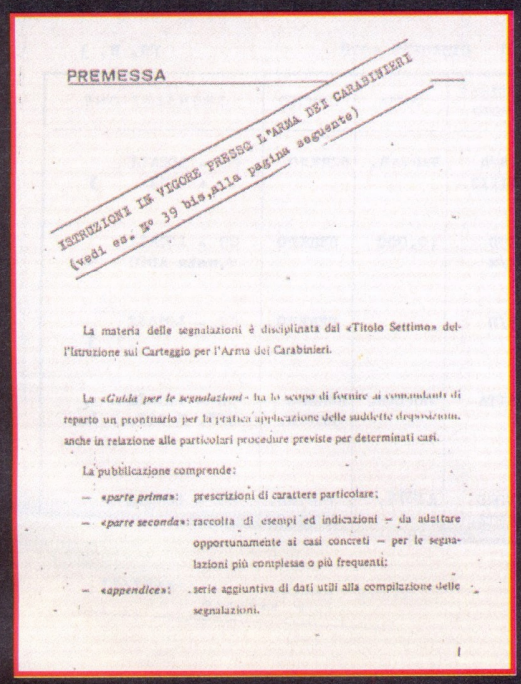
La ricostruzione del contatto alieno da parte di carabinieri e soldati nella caserma Nacci di Porto Venere, in provincia di Lecce, avvenuto dodici anni fa.

Molte volte è capitato di vedere, nei luoghi di un contatto ufologico, pattuglie dei militi. E solo adesso si sa dove sono andati a finire i verbali stesi in quelle occasioni: sul Web

UFO: arrivano gli X-Files dei Carabinieri

AVVISTAMENTI ALIENI RACCOLTI IN PASSATO DAGLI APPARTENENTI DELL'ARMA

Caserma Nacci di Torre Venere, in provincia di Lecce, 19 maggio 1994. Poco dopo mezzanotte, una pattuglia composta da quindici uomini, soldati e carabinieri guidati dal caporale istruttore Claudio Mucignat, stavano perlustrando il perimetro della base quando, improvvisamente, sopra un carro armato posteggiato, apparve una luce. In un attimo, quel bagliore si trasformò in una sagoma umana. Istintivamente, i quindici uomini puntarono i fucili ma, in un attimo, l'intero gruppo fu come paralizzato, sino a quando la luce non scomparve.
Cosa sia accaduto veramente in quei momenti non è dato sapere, fatto sta che tutti i membri di quella pattuglia,



PREMESSA

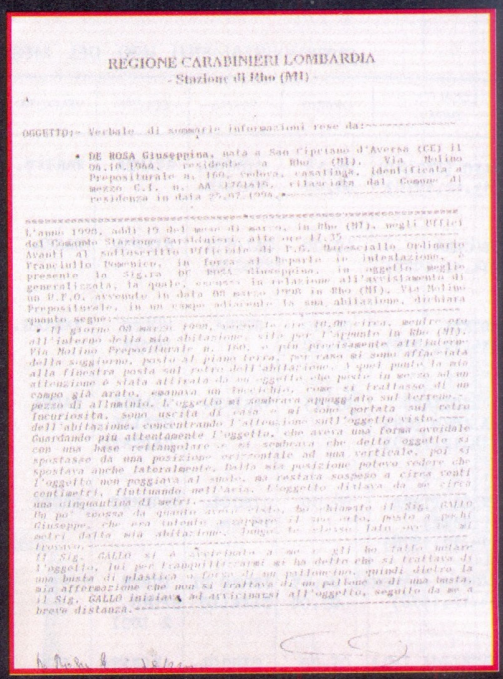
ISTRUZIONI IN VIGORE PRESSO L'ARMA DEI CARABINIERI
(vedi ed. N° 39 bis, alla pagina seguente)

La materia delle segnalazioni è disciplinata dal «Titolo Settimo» dell'Istruzione sul Carteggio per l'Arma dei Carabinieri.

La «*Guida per le segnalazioni*» ha lo scopo di fornire ai comandanti di reparto un prontuario per la pratica applicazione delle suddette disposizioni, anche in relazione alle particolari procedure previste per determinati casi.

La pubblicazione comprende:

- «*parte prima*»: prescrizioni di carattere particolare;
- «*parte seconda*»: raccolta di esempi ed indicazioni – da adattare opportunamente ai casi concreti – per le segnalazioni più complesse o più frequenti;
- «*appendice*»: serie aggiuntiva di dati utili alla compilazione delle segnalazioni.



REGIONE CARABINIERI LOMBARDIA
- Stazione di Rho (MI) -

OGGETTO:- Verbale di sommarie informazioni rese da:-

- DE ROSA Giuseppina, nata a San Cipriano d'Aversa (CE) il 06.10.1964, residente a Rho (MI), Via Molino Prepositurale n. 160, coltiva, casalinga, identificata a mezzo C.I. n. AA 1761496, rilasciata dal Comune di residenza in data 25.07.1994.-

L'anno 1994, addì 19 del mese di marzo, in Rho (MI), negli Uffici del Comando Stazione Carabinieri, alle ore 17.35.-
Avanti al sottoscritto Ufficiale di P.G. Maresciallo Ordinario Francullo Domenico, in forza al Reparto in intestazione, è presente la sig.ra DE ROSA Giuseppina, in oggetto meglio generalizzata, la quale, escussa in relazione all'avvistamento di un U.F.O. avvenuto in data 06 marzo 1994 in Rho (MI), Via Molino Prepositurale, in un campo adiacente la sua abitazione, dichiara quanto segue:-

- Il giorno 06 marzo 1994, verso le ore 20,00 circa, mentre ero all'interno della mia abitazione sita per l'appunto in Rho (MI), Via Molino Prepositurale n. 160, e più precisamente all'interno della soggiorno, posto al piano terra, per caso mi sono affacciata alla finestra posta sul retro dell'abitazione. Fu così che posi la mia attenzione è stata attirata da un oggetto che posto in mezzo ad un campo già arato, emanava un bagliore, come se riflettesse di un pezzo di alluminio. L'oggetto mi sembrava appoggiato sul terreno. Incuriosita, sono uscita di casa e mi sono portata sul retro dell'abitazione, concentrando l'attenzione sull'oggetto visto. Guardando più attentamente l'oggetto, che aveva una forma ovoidale con una base rettangolare e si sembrava che detto oggetto si spostasse da una posizione orizzontale ad una verticale, poi si spostasse anche lateralmente. Dallo mia posizione potevo vedere che l'oggetto non poggiava al suolo, ma restava sospeso a circa cento centimetri, fluttuando nell'aria. L'oggetto distava da me circa una cinquantina di metri. Ho chiamato il Sig. GALLO Pietro, che era intento a zappare il suo orto, posto a pochi metri dalla sua abitazione, dopo la chiamata, il Sig. GALLO si è avvicinato a me e gli ho fatto notare il Sig. GALLO si è avvicinato a me e gli ho fatto notare il oggetto, lui per tranquillizzarmi mi ha detto che si trattava di una busta di plastica o forse un pallone, quindi dietro la sua affermazione che non si trattava di un pallone o di una busta, il Sig. GALLO iniziava ad avvicinarsi all'oggetto, seguito da me a breve distanza.-

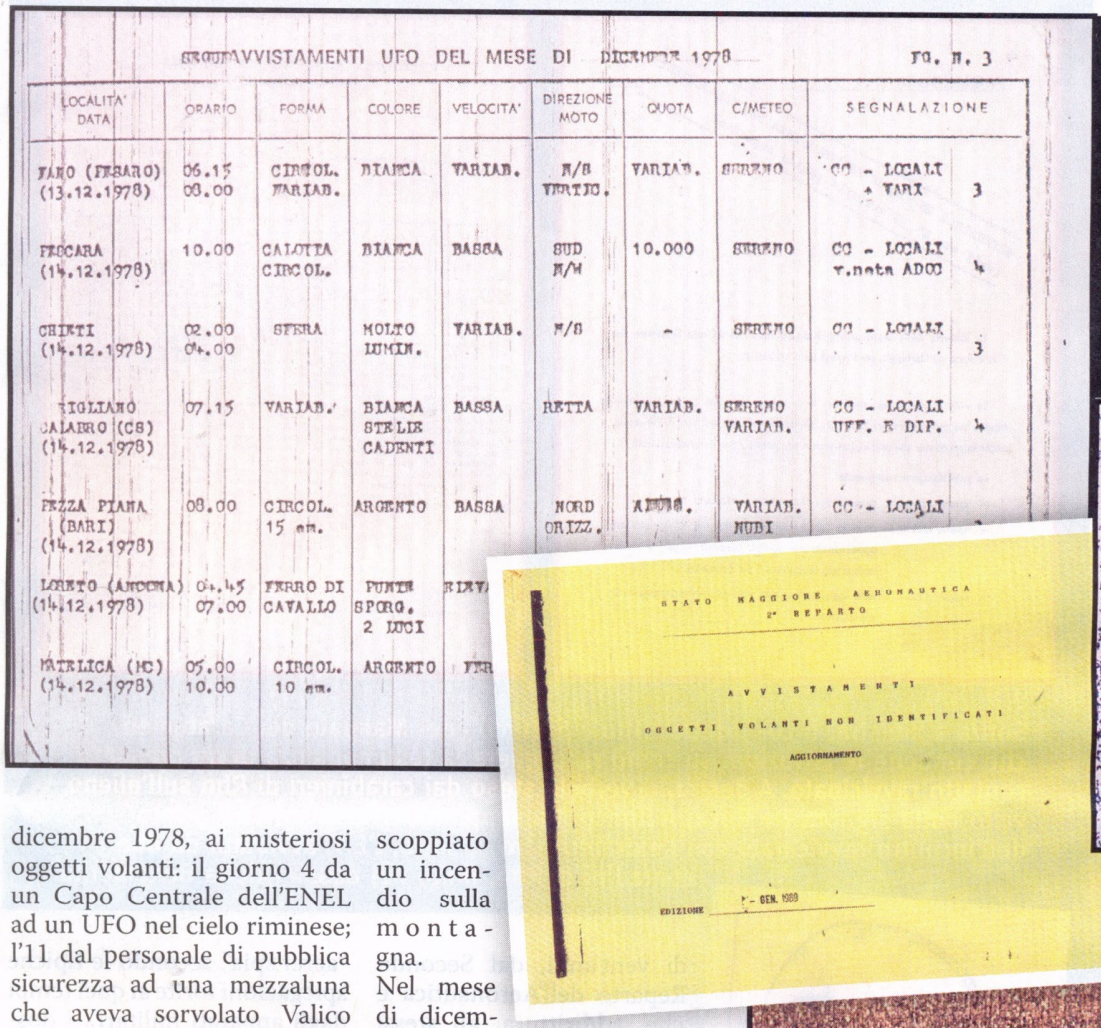
Sopra a sinistra, il cosiddetto "Titolo Settimo" del Manuale dei Carabinieri, che contiene le istruzioni su come raccogliere la testimonianza di un presunto contatto ravvicinato. A destra, il verbale steso dai carabinieri di Rho sull'alieno visto dalla signora De Rosa. A fianco, Giuseppina De Rosa indica il punto dell'incontro ravvicinato con l'extraterrestre e, sotto, l'E.T. avvistato da due contadini di Rho, finito nel dossier della Benemerita.

una volta steso rapporto, furono frettolosamente congedati. Da allora il caporale Mucignat, che non sa ancora darsi pace per avere visto la sua carriera bruscamente interrotta a causa di un "incontro ravvicinato del terzo tipo" (per dirla alla Spielberg), tentò tutte le strade, pur di essere reintegrato. Andò perfino ad una puntata del "Maurizio Costanzo Show" a spiegare di non essere un uomo vittima di allucinazioni.
Ma chissà come ci rimarrebbe l'ex caporale, se sapesse che avventure come la sua sono regolarmente schedate, da più di vent'anni, dal Secondo Reparto dell'Aeronautica e che, addirittura, gli stessi carabinieri sono tenuti, in caso di un avvistamento UFO, a riempire un formulario, definito con il termine "Titolo Settimo", che diventa segretissimo una volta che viene compilato.

I veri X-Files

Sino a poco tempo fa, quando gli organi della stampa e gli ufologi accennavano all'esistenza di dossier militari sugli UFO (che ammontano a più di 350 schede dal 1972 al 2002), il ministero della Difesa si trincerava dietro ad un ferreo «no comment». Ma ora che la Guerra Fredda è finita da un bel pezzo (e quindi molti avvistamenti UFO non possono più essere catalogati come "aerei spia", secondo le tipiche spiegazioni forite ai quei tempi dagli apparati militari), i dossier dell'Aeronautica vengono addirittura pubblicati mensilmente sul sito Internet della stessa arma. Il che dimostra, al di là di ogni dubbio, che il fenomeno è reale e che i testimoni non sono per nulla degli svitati. Anzi, ciò che maggiormente è interessante, è la presenza di diverse decine di segnalazioni effettuate o ricevute dai carabinieri di tutt'Italia.
Lo speciale dossier contenente il materiale dell'Arma vanta, infatti, ben 68 schede nel solo periodo compreso dal settembre 1978 al febbraio 1979 (i casi successivi non sono stati ancora resi pubblici, mentre degli altri, sfortunatamente, il Ministero ha reso noti solo i riassunti), con quattro immagini (rilasciate, purtroppo, solo in fotocopia) scattate, tutte nel

ALCUNI TESTIMONI OCULARI DI AVVISTAMENTI UFO, COME POI SI È SAPUTO,



SEGUE AVVISTAMENTI UFO DEL MESE DI DICEMBRE 1978 FG. N. 3

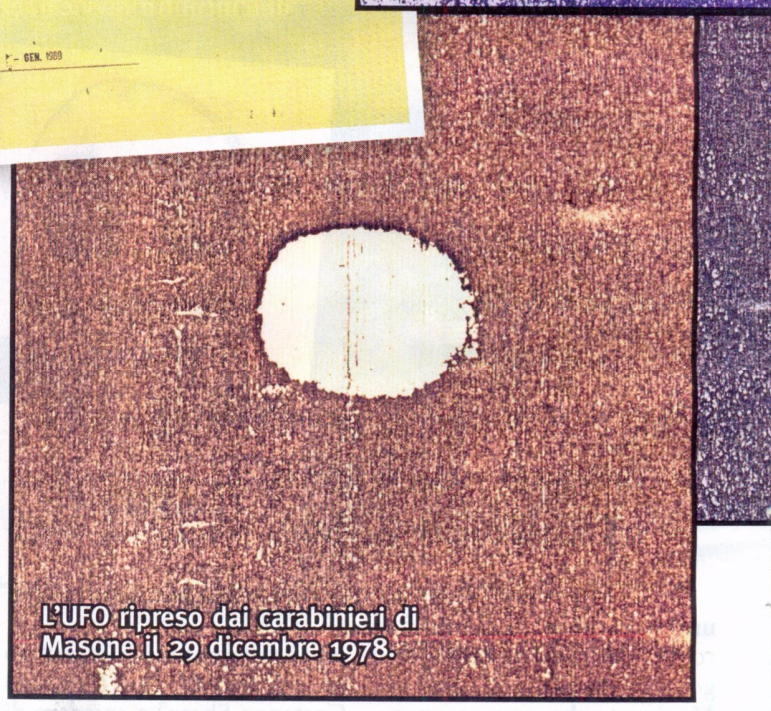
LOCALITA' DATA	ORARIO	FORMA	COLORE	VELOCITA'	DIREZIONE MOTO	QUOTA	C/METEO	SEGNALAZIONE
VADO (FERRARO) (13.12.1978)	06.15 08.00	CIRCOL. VARIAB.	BIANCA	VARIAB.	N/S VARIO.	VARIAB.	SERENO	CC - LOCALI + VARI 3
PESCARA (14.12.1978)	10.00	CALOTTA CIRCOL.	BIANCA	BASSA	SUD N/W	10.000	SERENO	CC - LOCALI v.nota ADOC 4
CHIETI (14.12.1978)	02.00 04.00	SFERA	MOLTO LUMIN.	VARIAB.	N/S	-	SERENO	CC - LOCALI 3
RIGLIANO CALABRO (CS) (14.12.1978)	07.15	VARIAB.	BIANCA STELLE CADENTI	BASSA	RETTA	VARIAB.	SERENO VARIAB.	CC - LOCALI UFF. E DIF. 4
PIZZA PIANA (BARI) (14.12.1978)	08.00	CIRCOL. 15 cm.	ARGENTO	BASSA	NORD ORIZZ.	ABBAS.	VARIAB. NUDI	CC - LOCALI
LORETO (ANCONA) (14.12.1978)	04.45 07.00	FERRO DI CAVALLO	PUNTE SPORG. 2 LUCI	RIVA				
MATELICA (MC) (14.12.1978)	05.00 10.00	CIRCOL. 10 cm.	ARGENTO	FER				

STATO MAGGIORE AERONAUTICA
2° REPARTO

AVVISTAMENTI
OGGETTI VOLANTI NON IDENTIFICATI
AGGIORNAMENTO

EDIZIONE 1° GEN. 1989

Una pagina dei dossier dell'Arma rilasciati al pubblico in versione riassuntiva. Più in basso: I dossier UFO dell'Aeronautica Militare Italiana. Un tempo segreti, adesso sono disponibili addirittura su Internet.



L'UFO ripreso dai carabinieri di Masone il 29 dicembre 1978.

dicembre 1978, ai misteriosi oggetti volanti: il giorno 4 da un Capo Centrale dell'ENEL ad un UFO nel cielo riminese; l'11 dal personale di pubblica sicurezza ad una mezzaluna che aveva sorvolato Valico Monteforte (in provincia di Avellino), il 18 dal personale della Questura di Napoli ad uno strano disco con un foro al centro, che stazionava sopra la zona di via Partenope e il 29 dagli stessi Carabinieri ad un globo di luce che si trovava sopra Masone, vicino a Reggio Emilia.

Ma ad esaminare il dossier c'è da restare a bocca aperta, visto che ci furono ben quindici avvistamenti nel solo mese di settembre. Il caso più interessante? Non un disco ma un "triangolo" che percorse, a mezzanotte e mezza e a quota altissima, il cielo di Sano, nel savonese. A vederlo, oltre ai carabinieri, ci furono anche i vigili del fuoco, chiamati perché, subito dopo il passaggio del misterioso ordigno, era scoppiato un incendio sulla montagna.

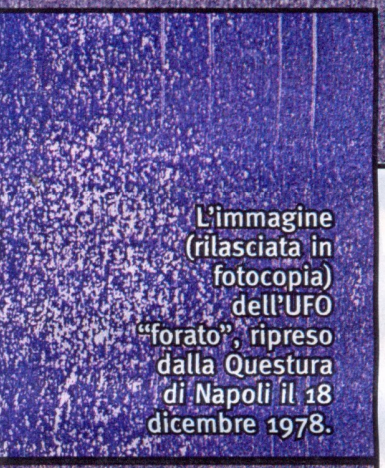
Nel mese di dicembre ci furono qualcosa come quarantaquattro avvistamenti: una vera e propria ondata, con segnalazioni da tutta la penisola: Bari, Cagliari, Palermo, Pesaro, Savona. Ma, soprattutto, dalla Sicilia. e dal leccese, dove anni dopo il caporale Claudio Mucignat avrebbe vissuto quel tragico incontro ravvicinato. In uno di questi avvistamenti, alle quattro del mattino, un oggetto conico e munito di antenne sorvolò il Sud Italia. Lo stesso oggetto fu visto, tre giorni dopo, a Lanciano, vicino a Chieti, mentre procedeva in linea retta ed emetteva dei raggi luminosi.

Il caso più curioso annotato da un carabiniere (l'identità di questi ultimi viene sempre mantenuta segreta) è quello che descrive un ordigno a "ferro di cavallo" apparso sopra la città anconetana di Loreto e rimasto visibile, come si legge nel rapporto redatto, «dalle 4.45 alle 7.00; aveva punte sporgenti e due luci, si muoveva velocissimo ad alta quota procedendo da nord a sud».

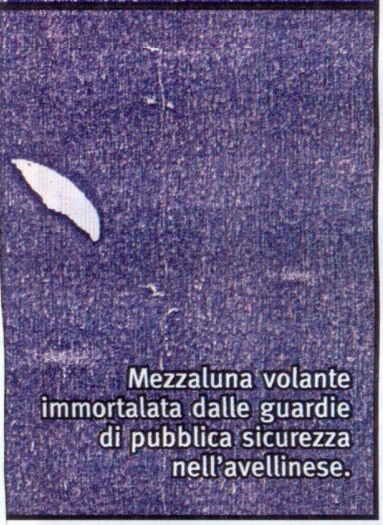
Una nota a margine del dos-

SONO STATI PRELEVATI DA MILITI DELL'ARMA E SOTTOPOSTI A INTERROGATORI

L'UFO apparso sopra la Centrale dell'ENEL di S. Martino di Rimini e finito nei dossier dei carabinieri..



L'immagine (rilasciata in fotocopia) dell'UFO "forato", ripreso dalla Questura di Napoli il 18 dicembre 1978.



Mezzaluna volante immortalata dalle guardie di pubblica sicurezza nell'avellinese.

sier, a cura dell'Aeronautica, precisa che questa documentazione è «di sicura credibilità per la documentata verifica effettuata dal personale delle stazioni locali dell'Arma dei carabinieri».

E.T. nel giardino

E poi ci sono gli episodi in cui i carabinieri sono stati coinvolti non come testimoni, ma come veri e propri detective del mistero. Si tratta sempre di casi che hanno ricevuto il beneplacito dell'Arma; sebbene gli avvistamenti più recenti non siano ancora stati resi noti, per tutelare la privacy dei testimoni, qualcosa è comunque trapelato alla stampa. Come l'episodio che segue.

8 marzo 1998, ore 10 circa in una grande casa colonica di Rho, nel milanese. A parlare è la signora Giuseppina De Rosa, una casalinga che vive in un grosso cascinale e che, in occasione della "Festa della Donna", ha avuto un particolarissimo incontro ravvicinato.

«Mi trovavo nel soggiorno di casa, al piano terra, e per caso mi sono affacciata alla finestra sul retro dell'abitazione», ha avuto modo di spiegare la donna. «In quel momento, la mia attenzione è stata attirata da un oggetto posto in un campo già arato; luccicava come se fosse d'alluminio. Sembrava appoggiato sul terreno. Incuriosita, sono uscita di casa e mi sono portata sul retro dell'abitazione. Guardando più attentamente l'oggetto, mi resi conto che aveva una forma ovoidale, con una base rettangolare, e che mi sembrava si spostasse in alto e di lato, fluttuando sospeso a venti centimetri da terra. La "cosa" distava da me una cinquantina di metri. Un po' scossa da quanto stavo vedendo, chiamai un mio vicino, il signor Giuseppe Gallo, che stava zappando l'orto. Quando l'uomo si è avvicinato, con il dito puntato gli ho mostrato lo strano oggetto che si trovava di fronte a noi.

«Lui, per tranquillizzarmi, mi spiegò che si trattava, probabilmente, di una busta di plastica e, per dimostrarmelo, si avvicinò all'oggetto. Ma, in quel preciso momento, la "cosa" prese ad indietreggiare e quando il mio vicino cercò di afferrarlo, l'oggetto si girò su se stesso, mettendo in evidenza una specie di quattro occhi neri e una fascia, simile ad una cintura, alzandosi in aria per venti metri e sparendo poi nel nulla».

Quell'avvistamento mobilitò orde di giornalisti ma anche la "Benemerita". Il racconto che avete appena letto è parte del verbale steso dalla locale stazione dei Carabinieri, rilasciato in copia alla testimone, che me l'ha fornito personalmente.

Un robot in mezzo ai vigneti

Ma il caso più stupefacente investigato dall'Arma si verificò nel 1993, quando in Italia gli UFO sembravano impazzare un po' dovunque. Anche in quell'occasione erano le dieci del mattino e, ancora una volta, era il giorno 8, di luglio, però, a Lirio, un paesino dell'Oltrepò pavese di sole duecento anime.

Domenico Casarini, un agricoltore sessantenne, stava arando la terra nel vigneto quando, improvvisamente, vide comparire tra i filari uno strano robot umanoide.

«Era alto due metri», mi raccontò in seguito, «ed era coperto da una tuta a scaglie color cenere. Aveva delle luci sul petto e sulle gambe e due occhi rossi simili a dei fari, da cui partiva un fascio di luce diretto contro la mia faccia. Dopo essere rimasto bloccato dallo stupore per alcuni istanti, mi ripresi e armeggiai nel cassetto della motozappatrice, cercando un arnese con cui difendermi. In quel momento, però, intuendo le mie intenzioni, quella specie di robot mi disse, con una voce che sembrava un nastro registrato: "Con il fucile non mi fai niente. Siamo in quattordici. Stai calmo o ti lancio una pinna velenosa", o qualcosa del genere. A quel punto, si alzò in volo, scomparendo dietro una fila di alberi».

Casarini corse nell'unico bar del luogo e si confidò con un amico. Neanche a dirlo, in breve la storia fece il giro del paese e finì sui giornali. Il giorno dopo, una "pantera" con a bordo due carabinieri e due non meglio identificati agenti in borghese, prelevò Casarini e lo portò nella caserma della vicina città di Stradella. Sottoposto ad un interrogatorio durato due ore da parte di un carabiniere palesemente scettico, Casarini infine sbottò: «Se mi credete bene, sennò lasciatemi in pace e riportatemi a casa».

Ma di pace l'agricoltore pavese ne ebbe davvero poca. Infatti, qualche giorno dopo, anche i carabinieri di Montalto Pavese vollero ascoltare la sua storia, e, subito dopo, i giornali, le tv, i curiosi a centinaia. A quel punto, per ritrovare la tranquillità, il contadino decise di rendersi irreperibile.

Nonostante la stranezza dell'episodio e della frase un po' ridicola che l'alieno avrebbe pronunziato, il caso fu etichettato dai militi dell'Arma come «non spiegato». Parola di carabiniere.

Alfredo Lissoni

FINALMENTE SPIEGATA L'ORIGINE E LA STORIA DI QUESTI INQUIETANTI

È scritto nel grano l'alfabeto di E.T.

Appaiono oramai da molti anni tra le messi nei campi: sono figure geometricamente perfette, non recano traccia di mano umana e sono spesso associate al passaggio di piccoli UFO nel cielo. Hanno ispirato al regista Mel Gibson il film "Signs": sono i cosiddetti "crop circles"

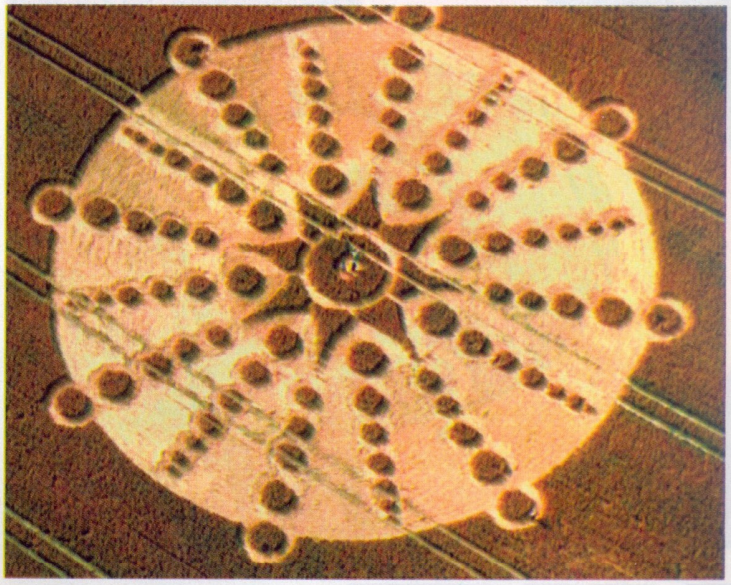
Le foto che vedete in questa pagina sono state scattate da un ex radarista militare a Mazzo di Rho, nel milanese, il 23 maggio di quest'anno. La loro definizione è scarsa, in quanto sono state scattate con un telefonino, ma si tratta ugualmente di documenti eccezionali, in quanto testimoniano la comparsa di un "cerchio nel grano" nostrano, prima che la consueta invasione dei curiosi lo devastasse.

Un fenomeno, questo, che era già accaduto tre anni fa, sempre nello stesso centro e nel medesimo campo. Tre cerchi disposti a triangolo scaleno erano apparsi improvvisamente tra le messi, senza traccia alcuna del passaggio di chicchessia, un alieno o un burlone in vena di scherzi. Ma appena la notizia si era sparsa, migliaia di curiosi avevano invaso il campo, distruggendo involontariamente

ogni possibile prova. E quando gli ufologi erano arrivati, era oramai troppo tardi, per capire se quei segni fossero soltanto uno scherzo o il fantomatico messaggio di una civiltà aliena.

«Immaginavo che, prima o poi, il fenomeno si sarebbe manifestato nuovamente», ci ha confidato il radarista, che ha chiesto l'anonimato.

«E così ogni anno, tutte le mattine, ho tenuto d'occhio il terreno, un campo in via Pace, accanto all'autostrada. Sapevo che i cerchi nel grano sono soliti apparire sempre nelle stesse zone e quando, quella mattina, ho visto quei tre cerchi disposti a triangolo, uniti da camminamenti, sono corso nel campo e ho scattato quante più foto ho potuto, con il mio cellulare».



I cerchi nel grano sono spesso disegni immensi. Si confronti l'altezza delle persone all'interno del crop con l'estensione dello stesso. Com'è possibile realizzarli al buio con pali e corde?

Le eccezionali immagini scattate con un telefonino ai tre cerchi apparsi a Mazzo di Rho, nel milanese, l'estate scorsa. Si noti la perfezione dei bordi e, in alto, la presenza di una "fontanella" centrale. Sono davvero immagini uniche di un fenomeno andato poi distrutto.

Giusto in tempo, viene da aggiungere. Poco dopo il tam tam dei curiosi avrebbe portato tra le spighe l'inevitabile folla, e la figura sarebbe stata totalmente compromessa. Le immagini che dunque potete osservare sono esclusive, mostrate per la prima volta, e per di più scattate dal primo testimone in assoluto dell'evento.

Quella rotonda nel grano

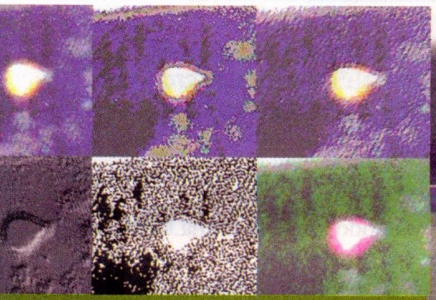
Ma che cosa sono esattamente i "cerchi nel grano"? La loro storia inizia ufficialmente nel 1978, anno di grandi avvistamenti UFO, quando in Gran Bretagna si manifesta un fenomeno alquanto singolare: la comparsa, nei campi di grano della Scozia, di insoliti anelli circolari. Il primo ad accorgersene fu l'agricoltore Ian Stevens di Headbourne Worthly che, mentre stava trebbiando il grano, si ritrovò all'improvviso all'interno di una formazione perfettamente circolare. Le spighe erano state piegate dolcemente in senso orario, sovrapposte le une alle altre, e descrivevano un anello perfetto. Procedendo lungo la strana formazione Stevens si trovò poi dinanzi ad una serie di anelli più piccoli. L'insieme dei cerchi sembrava quasi volere rappresentare una figura. La vicenda non ebbe più alcun seguito sino a che, dell'enigma dei "crop circles" (letteralmente, "cerchi nel grano"), si tornò a parlare nell'estate del 1981, quando il ricercatore inglese Pat Delgado, un ex ingegnere della NASA, denunciò il fenomeno alla stampa mondiale.

«Mi recai a Cheesefoot Head e mi ritrovai a contemplare dall'alto un grande campo con tre grosse impronte circolari, causate dall'appiattimento del raccolto. Fu un'impressione profonda e sconvolgente. Quale forza poteva aver provocato un simile fenomeno?», spiegò Pat ai giornali.

Da quel momento Delgado, con la collaborazione dell'ingegnere elettrotecnico Colin Andrews , cominciò a catalogare le centinaia di "crops" che dal 1981 hanno costellato le messi del Regno Unito. Dagli anni Ottanta, poi, i "crop circles" hanno fatto la loro misteriosa comparsa in Germania, Svizzera, Italia, Belgio, Ungheria, Giappo-

OLTRE A CERCHI DAVVERO INCREDIBILI E PRECISI, CI SONO DELLE PIÙ

Un sistema planetario nel grano.

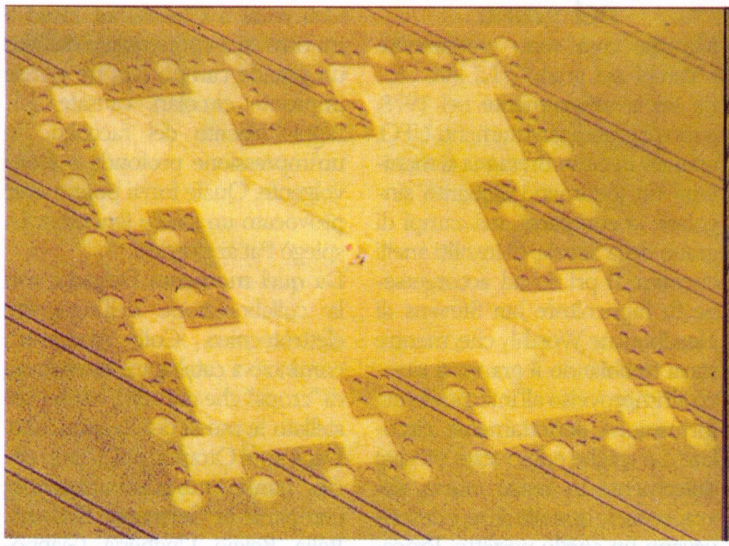


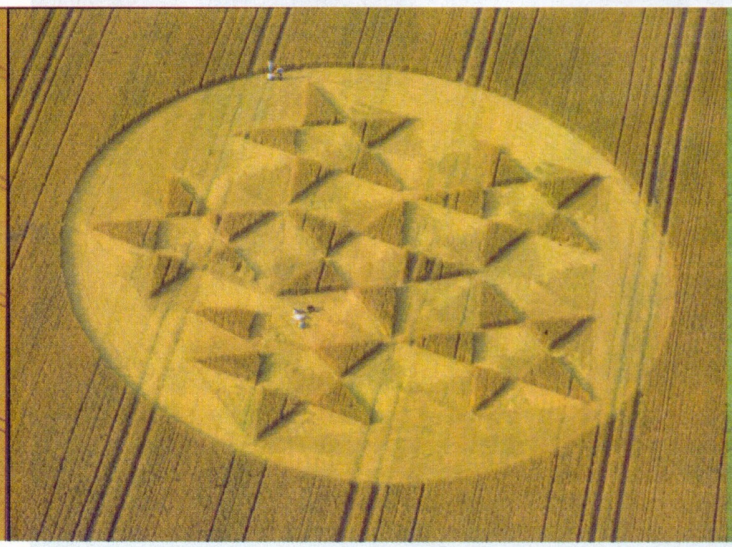
Le misteriose luci più volte rilevate sopra i cerchi nel grano; l'analisi computerizzata rileva che si tratta di oggetti in grado di emanare calore, probabilmente microonde che disidratano le spighe.

ne, Afghanistan, Canada, Brasile, Australia, Egitto, India, Russia e America. E da figure semplici, in genere banali anelli di dimensioni variabili, i "crops" sono diventati sempre più complessi ed articolati. Dal 1985 sono state catalogate le formazioni più curiose: animali, simboli alchemici e sumeri, croci celtiche, cerchi concentrici, figure umane, sistemi planetari, figure matematiche (teoremi, frattali).
La "madre di tutti i pittogrammi", definita così per la sua imponenza, è una sorta di galassia composta da 410 cerchi a spirale lungo trecento metri di campo, apparsi in una sola notte a Milk Hill, in Inghilterra, il 13 agosto 2001.

Cerchi veri, cerchi falsi

«In realtà, i cerchi falsi rappresentano almeno il settanta per cento dei casi», ha dichiarato Colin Andrews.
Ma come distinguere una formazione vera da una falsa? Ebbene, il più delle volte le spighe mature di grano (o di altro cereale) sono schiacciate per terra da un movimento rotatorio deciso e delicato, che non le spezza ma, anzi, permette loro di crescere in modo orizzontale. Le spighe appaiono come "cotte" in un forno a microonde (ossia, disidratate); inoltre, il campo non deve recare traccia del passaggio di persone (ipotetici falsari), il disegno creato deve essere preciso e con i bordi perfetti e, in talune occasioni, al centro del cerchio resta un ciuffo di spighe che gli inglesi chiamano "la fontana".
Spesso sopra i "crops" vengono viste volteggiare strane bolle di luce; si ritiene siano esse a causare il fenomeno. Per alcuni, queste "balls of light" ("bolle di luce", appunto) altro non sarebbero che sonde aliene teleguidate, il cui scopo sarebbe quello di disegnare sulle messi simboli comprensibili da qualsiasi essere umano.
E poi ci sono i falsi, realizzati malamente calpestando le spighe con assi o rastrelli; ma la differenza c'è e si vede. Eppure, nel settembre 1991 una notizia pubblicata in prima pagina dal quotidiano londinese "Today" mise in subbuglio l'intera comunità dei "cerealogists", come vengono chiamati, in modo alquanto scherzoso, gli studiosi di questi fenomeni. Due attempati sessantenni, Douglas Bower e David Chorley, confessarono di essere gli autori dei cerchi. Dinanzi ai redattori del quotidiano i due raccontarono la loro storia.
«Tutto iniziò dopo quegli avvistamenti UFO nel 1978», spiegarono Bower e Chorley. «Decidemmo di fare uno scherzo e cominciammo con il disegnare un progetto dettagliato delle impronte da lasciare in un campo. Ne scegliemmo uno





CHE EVIDENTI FALSIFICAZIONI CHE SMINUISCONO IL VALORE DEL FENOMENO

Un classico falso: le spighe di questo cerchio nel grano sono spezzate, malamente pestate e piegate, inoltre i bordi non sono ordinati.

visibile dall'alto, quello di Cheese Head, sopra il quale passa una strada. Ci andammo di notte, armati di un gomitolo di spago e di alcune assi di legno. Uno di noi fece da fulcro e l'altro si mosse su una traiettoria circolare, piegando il grano con l'asse. Noi abbiamo cominciato e poi altri ci hanno imitato in tutto il mondo. Lo abbiamo fatto solo per divertirci: ci piaceva ascoltare le speculazioni della gente, specie dopo che Delgado ci ha definito "intelligenze superiori extraterrestri". Abbiamo deciso di mettere fine allo scherzo solo dopo avere sentito che il governo giapponese intendeva stanziare diversi miliardi per studiare il fenomeno. Pensammo che lo scherzo era andato avanti abbastanza... ».

Per dare prova di ciò, i due sessantenni, scortati da un giornalista, crearono un falso cerchio e avvisarono Pat Delgado. Questi, giunto sul posto, diede frettolosamente per buono il cerchio, giocandosi la reputazione (il suo socio Colin Andrews fu invece più scettico, ma il "Today", allettato dall'idea di risolvere definitivamente l'enigma, preferì dimenticarsene).

Il mistero dei cerchi nel grano, dunque, si risolse "ufficialmente" come uno scherzo astuto ed elaborato, oggi continuato, nonostante la confessione dei vecchietti e la morte di uno dei due, da un gruppo di anonimi "land artists", artisti di strada, i "circlemakers" (i cosiddetti "creatori di cerchi", autori anche di un omonimo sito Internet all'interno del quale si spiega come creare i cerchi con assi e corde) che utilizzerebbero le spighe come tele per insolite forme d'arte.

Ebbene, che sia possibile falsificare i "crops", è accettabile, ma che tutti i casi siano falsi non è credibile: il fenomeno risulta, difatti, essere molto più esteso ed antico di quanto rivendichino gli "artisti falsari", visto che i detective del mistero inglesi hanno scovato una tavoletta settecentesca che riproduce la formazione naturale di un "crop" durante l'invocazione di un sacerdote druido, come pure una stampa del 1678 che mostra lo stesso fenomeno. Solo che, in quell'occasione, la colpa della formazione dei "crops" fu imputata ad un dispettoso "diavolo mietitore".

Colpa di E.T.

Negli ultimi anni il fenomeno si è poi diffuso a macchia d'olio in tutto il mondo, Italia compresa. È ancora plausibile pensare ancora a gruppi di burloni, in grado di operare di notte, al buio, senza mai farsi scoprire (nemmeno dai cani da guardia che gli agricoltori, infastiditi dal via vai nei campi, liberano tra le messi)?

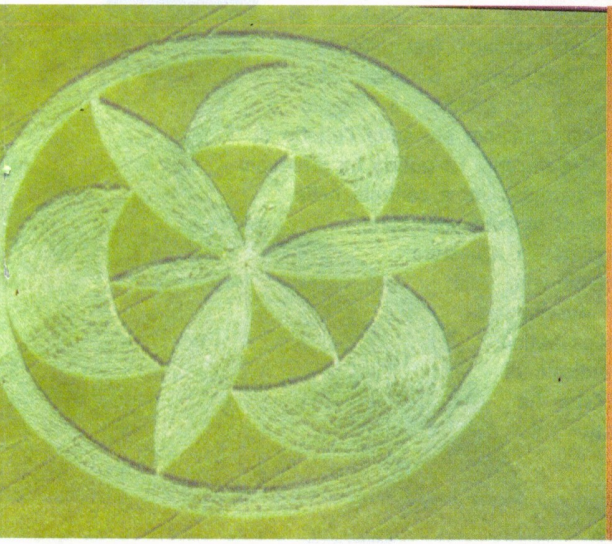
La studiosa americana Marjorie Tomkins si reca ogni anno in Gran Bretagna per studiare il fenomeno.

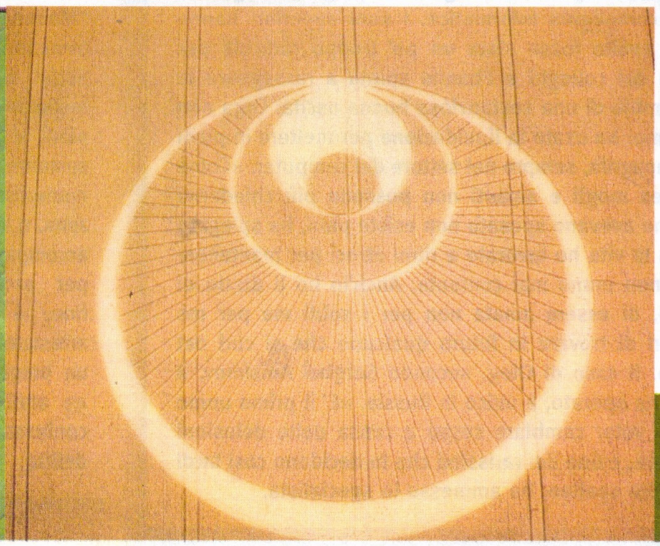
«Una notte io e mio marito, che è fisico, stavamo monitorando un campo dove era apparso un disegno raffigurante un sistema solare», ha avuto modo di raccontare Marjorie. «La formazione era, però, incompleta. Ad un certo momento mio marito, che stava sorvegliando proprio il punto dove il disegno era mancante, si è girato per prendere un cappello e, quando si è voltato nuovamente verso il "crop", ha scoperto che, come d'incanto, la formazione era stata completata. Nel campo non vedemmo né UFO né burloni: era come se una forza invisibile avesse terminato la figura. Un'altra notte mio marito rimase come calamitato al suolo da quella stessa forza. Si era steso a riposare ma, quando aveva cercato di rialzarsi, non vi era riuscito per diversi minuti. Era come se qualcosa lo tenesse aggrappato al suolo.

«Non sappiamo spiegare questi fenomeni», ha continuato a raccontare la Tomkins, «che però sappiamo essere capitati anche ad altre persone. Da parte mia, penso che questi disegni rappresentino in realtà una forma di alfabeto celeste, alieno. In America lavoro con gli indiani Sioux del Dakota, per la salvaguardia della cultura pellerossa. Ho avuto modo di mostrare ad alcuni sciamani le foto dei crop circles. Con mio grande stupore non si sono affatto meravigliati ma, anzi, mi hanno detto di conoscere quei caratteri, che fanno parte della loro scrittura sacra. Sono stati in grado di interpretarli, in quanto simboli cosmogonici, che ricordano la discesa degli Dei sulla terra».

Ma se è così, che cosa mai vorranno dirci gli alieni?

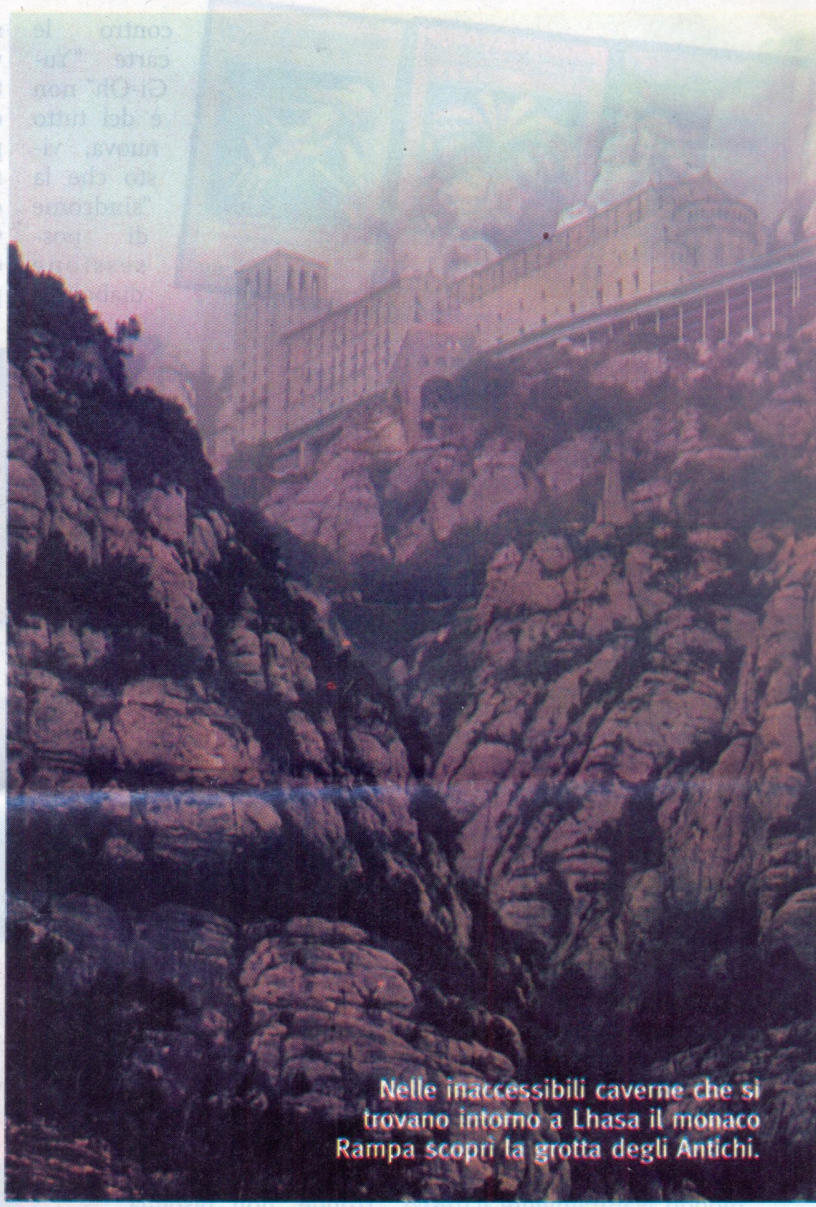
Alfredo Lissoni





I "crops" rappresentano figure geometriche, stellari, simboliche.

Una delle molte raffigurazioni di Buddha, venerato dai tibetani.

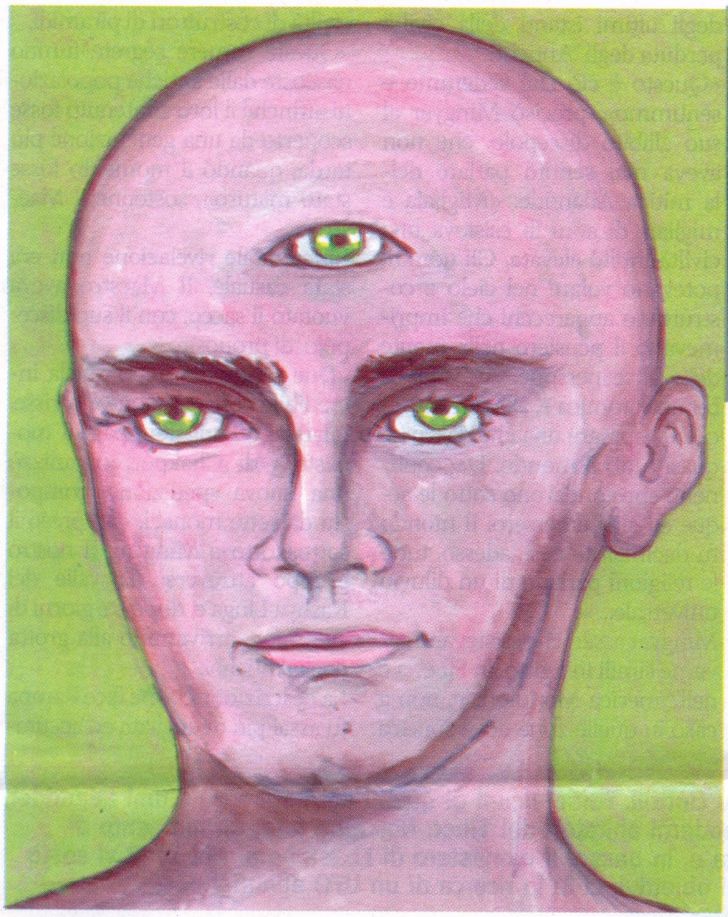


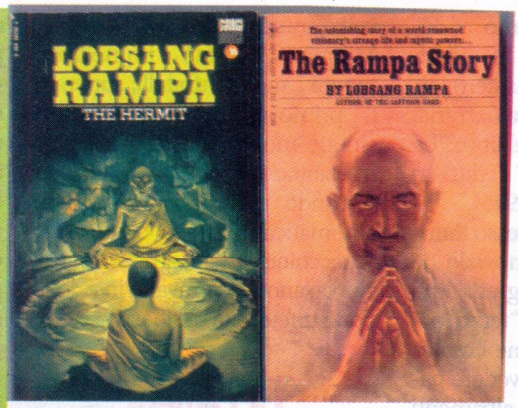
Nelle inaccessibili caverne che si trovano intorno a Lhasa il monaco Rampa scoprì la grotta degli Antichi.

Un controverso monaco tibetano è stato testimone, negli anni Trenta, del ritrovamento di un disco volante preistorico? Spaventato da quella tecnologia, avrebbe deciso di non parlarne per quarant'anni

Le CAVERNE degli antichi

A DETTA DI ALCUNI, LOBSANG RAMPA SAREBBE UNO DEI COMPONENTI DELLA





Il "Terzo Occhio" (a fianco) sarebbe una seconda vista che permetterebbe di percepire dimensioni sovrannaturali. Nella realtà, è una ferita prodotta al centro della fronte. Sopra, le copertine dei libri in cui Rampa descrive il ritrovamento dell'UFO. Pur avendo sempre celato la propria nazionalità, nella copertina del libro "The Rampa Story", il monaco si fece ritrarre con le sue reali fattezze occidentali. Sopra a destra, il libro in cui Rampa descrisse, primo al mondo, il rito segreto dell'apertura del Terzo Occhio.

ta di quella del suo maestro. Il giovane monaco raccontò di carrelli elevatori grazie ai quali si poteva raggiungere il soffitto, di statue e di immagini scolpite nel metallo, di una scrittura ideografica incisa sul pavimento di pietra e di una scatola di metallo opaco in cui scorreva la registrazione della vita degli antichi.

La fine di tutto

In un "globo ardente", simile ad una macchina per ologrammi, i sette monaci poterono assistere alla proiezione di un film tridimensionale.

«Vedemmo il mondo di tanto tempo fa», scrisse Rampa. «Dove adesso c'è il mare, allora c'erano le montagne e strane creature percorrevano la terra. Strane macchine viaggiavano nell'aria o a pochi centimetri da terra, templi grandissimi ergevano le loro guglie verso il cielo. Gli animali e gli uomini comunicavano telepaticamente, ma non vi era felicità, perché i preti ed i politicanti insegnavano che era compito divino uccidere il nemico. Vedemmo grandi guerre e gli scienziati che costruivano armi sempre più mortali. Una sequela di immagini ci mostrò un gruppo di uomini che costruivano ciò che chiamavano una capsula del tempo (ciò che noi chiamiamo "caverna degli antichi"), nella quale immagazzinare per le generazioni future dei modelli funzionanti delle loro macchine e un documento completo della loro cultura. Vedemmo oceani con grandi città galleggianti, ponti e velivoli. Poi un lampo nel cielo e l'intera città si trasformò in gas incandescente. Sulle rovine era sospesa una nube rossa che aveva la forma di un fungo alto migliaia di metri...».

Spaventati da quelle immagini terrificanti, il gruppo decise che l'umanità non era pronta per sapere e, soprattutto, per possedere una simile tecnologia. E così, di comune accordo, i monaci decisero di murare ed occultare l'ingresso della caverna.

«I comunisti sono ora nel Tibet», spiegò Rampa nel suo libro, «d è meglio tacere la posizione della caverna, perché il possesso degli oggetti che custodisce darebbe loro la possibilità di conquistare il mondo... ».

Un ufo preistorico

Ma di stanze il giovane Rampa ebbe modo, nel tempo, di visitarne altre. In un altro volume, "Il saggio del Tibet", raccontò di quando, assieme al suo maestro, poté visitare una nuova caverna, nascosta sul cocuzzolo di una montagna fuori Lhasa, la capitale del Tibet, vicino ad un eremo. In quell'occasione, i due avrebbero potuto addirittura ispezionare i resti di un'antica astronave precipitata.

«Eravamo in una grotta buia; le tenebre densissime non erano interrotte in nessun punto dal minimo barlume di luce», scrisse Rampa nel libro. «Sembrava un buio sonoro, in quanto ci sembrava di udire una fitta serie di rumori sordi, da cui però fui distolto dall'apparire di una luce simile a quella dell'aurora. Sopra di noi, su un lato dell'ambiente chiuso, apparve una sfera lucente, fatta di metallo incandescente. Illuminò tutta la sala, che si rivelò essere immensa. Il mio maestro disse che quel posto meraviglioso era stato creato tanti anni fa; una volta era il quartier generale di una razza in grado di compiere viaggi spaziali. "Dopo milioni di anni tutto questo funziona ancora, è intatto. Alcuni di noi monaci erano noti come i "Guardiani del Tempio Interno". Ebbene, è questo il Tempio Interno", mi disse Dondup».

In una galleria, il maestro e il discepolo avrebbero osservato un velivolo «composto da due piatti messi l'uno sopra l'altro, fatto di una superficie vetrosa di un grigio smorto». I due avrebbero visto, nientemeno, che un UFO preistorico, abbandonato da millenni!

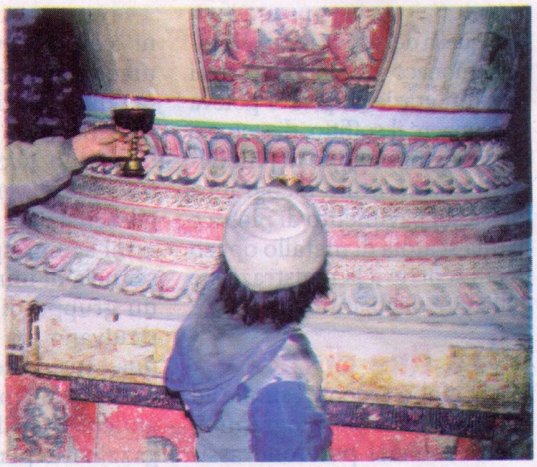
RREBBE QUANTO RESTA DELLA LEGGENDARIA CIVILTÀ DI ATLANTIDE

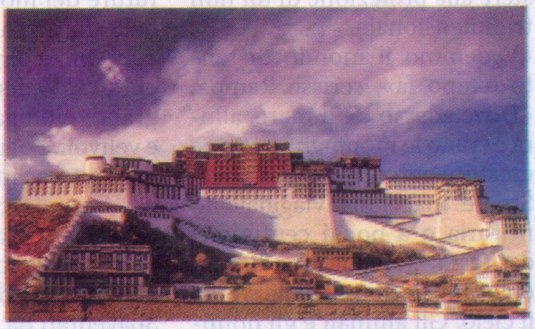
La scena che andiamo a descrivere si svolse in Tibet, nell'inaccessibile monastero tibetano di Chakpori e, a narrarla, fu Lobsang Rampa, nel libro "La caverna degli antichi" (edito in Italia da Ubaldini nel 1976).
Due i protagonisti: lo stesso Rampa, all'epoca giovane novizio da poco sottoposto al segretissimo rito dell'apertura del "terzo occhio" (una trapanazione cranica che permetterebbe di vedere paranormalmente realtà, altrimenti invisibili ai tradizionali cinque sensi) ed il suo maestro, l'anziano lama Mingyar Dondup. È proprio Mingyar il primo a prendere la parola, per descrivere gli eccezionali eventi di cui fu testimone nell'adolescenza.
«Ero un lama molto giovane», prese a raccontare Mingyar a Lobsang, «ed assieme al mio maestro e con altri tre lama stavamo esplorando alcune catene montuose tra le più remote del Tibet. Qualche settimana prima si era sentito un forte scoppio seguito da una frana. Lo scopo della nostra uscita era scoprirne la causa... ».
Esplorando le vette circostanti, il monaco aveva improvvisamente individuato una profonda crepa; osservando meglio, aveva scoperto che essa immetteva in una caverna, apparentemente lavorata.
«Penetrai nella crepa pieno di paura e dopo cinque metri mi trovai ad un angolo brusco», proseguì Mingyar. «Se non fossi stato paralizzato dalla paura avrei gridato per la sorpresa. C'era una dolce luce argentea che non avevo mai visto prima. La caverna in cui mi trovavo era spaziosa, con un tetto che non riuscivo a scorgere. Assomigliava ad un'ampia sala che si stendeva a perdita d'occhio, come se la montagna fosse stata vuota internamente. La luce era dappertutto, veniva giù dall'alto da un certo numero di globi che sembravano sospesi nel buio. Il posto era pieno di apparecchi e meccanismi strani. Alcuni erano coperti da un vetro trasparente... ».
Mingyar chiamò immediatamente i suoi confratelli; superato il primo momento di stupore i cinque monaci cominciarono ad ispezionare l'immensa sala, attraversando porte che si aprivano automaticamente ed osservando «macchine antichissime che scricchiolavano ed entravano in azione dopo un'eternità di riposo».

La camera del tempo

Ma il bello doveva ancora venire. In quella che sembrava essere una sorta di "camera del tempo", vale a dire un museo la cui tecnologia era stata lasciata ad imperitura memoria, i cinque monaci notarono un ordigno simile ad un moderno televisore; toccandolo, il congegno si azionò ed iniziò a trasmettere immagini. Si trattava degli ultimi istanti della civiltà perduta degli "Antichi".
«Questo è ciò che vedemmo e sentimmo», precisò Mingyar al suo allibito discepolo, che non aveva mai sentito parlare della mitica Atlantide. «Migliaia e migliaia di anni fa esisteva una civiltà molto elevata. Gli uomini potevano volare nel cielo e costruivano apparecchi che imprimevano il pensiero nella mente delle altre persone. Avevano la bomba atomica e, alla fine, ne fecero scoppiare una che distrusse quasi tutto il mondo. Dei continenti sprofondarono sotto le acque ed altri emersero. Il mondo fu decimato e così, adesso, tutte le religioni parlano di un diluvio universale... ».
Mingyar asserì che esistevano caverne simili in Egitto, in Siberia e nell'America Meridionale, non a caso in quelle zone dove sorsero civiltà di costruttori di piramidi.
«Queste camere segrete furono nascoste dalle antiche popolazioni affinché il loro contenuto fosse scoperto da una generazione più tarda, quando il momento fosse stato maturo», sostenne il Maestro.
L'incredibile rivelazione non era stata casuale. Il Maestro aveva vuotato il sacco, con il suo discepolo, di proposito.
«Due settimane dopo quella incredibile conversazione», scrisse, infatti, Lobsang Rampa, «il monastero di Chakpori organizzò una nuova spedizione, composta da sette monaci, compreso il sottoscritto e Mingyar. Il nostro gruppo attraversò la valle del Kashya Linga e, dopo tre giorni di cammino, arrivammo alla grotta degli Antichi».
La descrizione che ne fece Rampa fu assai più dettagliata ed accura-

Sotto, divinità tibetane incise su ciottoli. Forse alcuni di questi dèi furono gli ultimi atlantidei, poi divinizzati nel ricordo dei moderni abitatori del Tibet. Nell'altra foto, un momento di preghiera in un tempio buddista e, in basso, il monastero di Lhasa oggi. Nel 1938 vi sostò una spedizione nazista, tra i cui obiettivi, ci fu la ricerca di un UFO atlantideo.

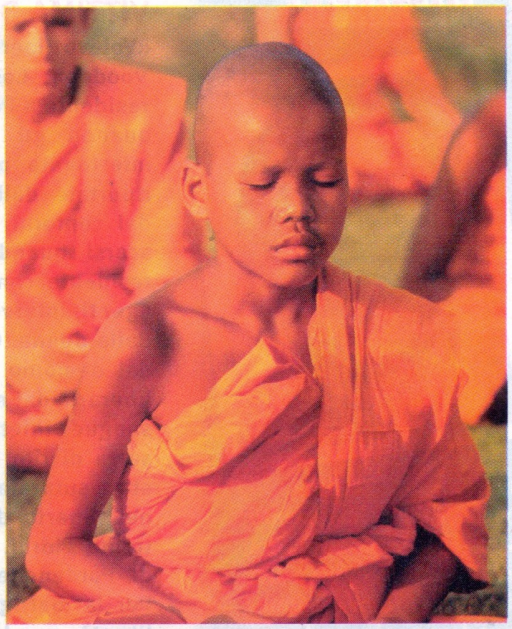


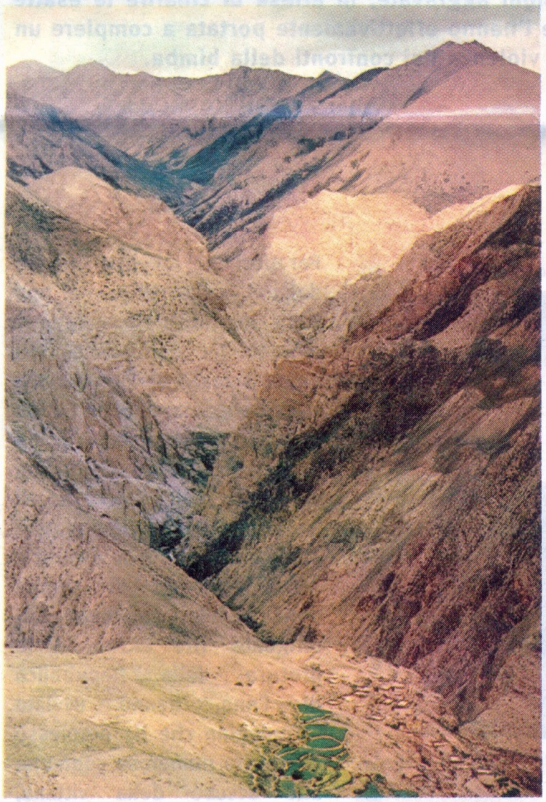


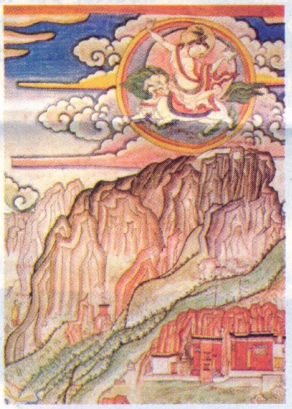
17-1-07

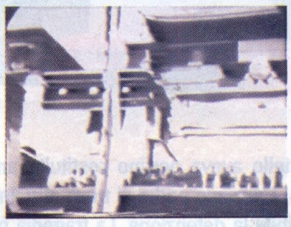
SPEDIZIONE SCIENTIFICA NAZISTA CHE RAGGIUNSE IL CUORE DEL TIBET NEL 1938

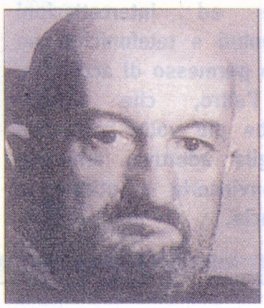
A fianco, un giovane monaco in meditazione. Ancora non è stato sottoposto alla segretissima cerimonia dell'apertura del "terzo occhio", descritta per la prima volta da Lobsang Rampa. Sotto, un raduno di monaci tibetani. Da quando il Tibet è stato invaso dai maoisti, molti religiosi sono fuggiti all'estero.

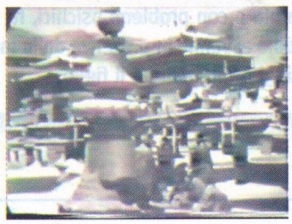












A sinistra, le montagne di Chakpori, dove Mingyar Dondup scoprì la prima "caverna degli Antichi". A fianco, un antico dipinto tibetano, che mostra una divinità sfrecciare in cielo a bordo di un globo volante. Si tratta della raffigurazione di un antico UFO? In basso a sinistra, Il vero volto di Lobsang Rampa. Le foto sono state scattate da detective americani e francesi. Nelle altre foto, fotogrammi del filmato Rai che ha documentato la spedizione dei nazisti in Tibet, nel 1938.

Ma chi è veramente Rampa?

Inutile dire che, quando le memorie di Rampa furono pubblicate in Occidente, decine di detective del mistero si misero sulle sue tracce. Con sorpresa, s'imbatterono non in un tibetano, ma in un anziano signore inglese di nome Cyril Oskin. Lo accusarono di essere un mistificatore. Ma le descrizioni di "Oskin-Rampa", soprattutto quelle che riguardavano riti segretissimi, come la trapanazione del cranio, erano troppo dettagliate ed accurate per essere frutto della sua fantasia. Nessun altro, infatti, prima di lui, ne aveva scritto. Quindi, non poteva averle copiate. Ai suoi detrattori, Oskin fornì una spiegazione strampalata: il suo corpo era stato posseduto dallo spirito del monaco tibetano, morente. Ma in molti sospettano che la verità fosse un'altra. Un po' come nel film "Sette anni in Tibet", vi sono prove che, nel 1938, Adolf Hitler spedì segretamente in Tibet un gruppo di scienziati e studiosi nazisti, con il compito di effettuare ricerche militari e occulte nel lontano Paese orientale.

A tale proposito, recentemente, una puntata de "La grande storia", trasmessa da RaiTre, ha presentato rare ed eccezionali immagini di un filmato dell'Istituto Luce che documentò proprio le fasi di quell'incredibile missione. Oskin avrebbe fatto parte di quella spedizione ma, sedotto dai misteri dell'Oriente millenario, si sarebbe convertito e lì sarebbe stato iniziato. I conti, a questo punto, tornerebbero. Ventenne nel 1938, era sessantenne quando, nel 1978, i suoi libri furono pubblicati in tutto il mondo. Ma restano alcuni interrogativi. Hitler, che già negli anni Trenta sapeva dei dischi volanti, inviò in Tibet quella spedizione anche per cercare l'UFO degli "Antichi"? E allora, forse più per paura dei nazisti, che non dei comunisti, Rampa e Dondup decisero di occultare ogni traccia di quella caverna?

Alfredo Lissoni

MISTERIOSE SFERE DI LUCE INFESTEREBBERO I LITORALI DELLA

Perché la costa adriatica è al centro di continui avvistamenti UFO? Gli addetti ai lavori non sanno spiegarselo e per gli scettici, che attribuiscono i fenomeni a bolle di gas scaturite dal sottosuolo, c'è un video che mostra l'intelligenza di queste misteriose manifestazioni

E.T. mi ha guardato ai raggi X

CHE RAPPRESENTA IL PIÙ FAMOSO CASO DI "ABDUCTION" NEL NOSTRO PAESE

Rosanna), sino a che la padrona dell'albergo, indispettita, si fece forza e decise di andare a controllare di persona.

Esaminata da E.T.

E qui accadde l'incredibile. Come Rossana mise piede in ufficio, il comportamento delle sfere di luce cambiò di colpo, intelligentemente!

«Quando sono entrata in ufficio, il fascio mi ha centrato e ho visto una sfera più luminosa delle altre come scandagliarmi il petto, con un tremolio», ha continuato a raccontarmi la proprietaria dell'albergo. «Sembrava mi stesse esaminando. Non posso negarlo, mi sono spaventata; avevo uno straccio in mano e, con una reazione istintiva, l'ho agitato e il raggio si è subito scomposto in due. L'ho visto bene: ogni fascio era composto da tanti globi di luce. Poi le sfere si sono ridotte, come esplodendo e quella più lucente, ancora ferma all'altezza del mio petto, si è alzata in alto, dirigendosi verso il tetto della casa. Le luci, a quel punto, si sono poi spente, una da una, in maniera graduale... ».

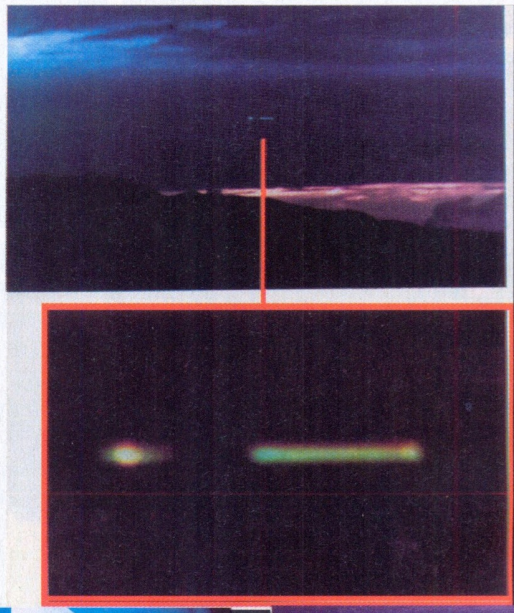
La vicenda sembrava finita lì. Ancora sconvolta, Rossana si mise in contatto con Pierangelo Castellino, un ufologo milanese, il quale le chiese di poter controllare la registrazione a circuito chiuso. E così, con grande sorpresa, Rossana accorse che non solo l'intera sequenza era stata filmata, ma che il fenomeno era iniziato già molto prima, per un totale di quasi otto ore! Solo quando la donna aveva messo piede in ufficio, l'intelligenza che azionava il fascio di luce, forse soddisfatta, smise di effettuare la sua esplorazione.

A quel punto, contattato da Castellino, è entrato in scena l'autore di questa rubrica che, escluso il possibile, ha infine sottoposto alla testimone il questionario tipico dei rapimenti UFO o "abductions", come vengono definiti in termini tecnici.

Nella casistica dei cosiddetti "abductions" è difatti ricorrente la presenza di sfere di luce che sembrano passare ai raggi X i possibili rapiti. È accaduto ad esempio, molti anni or sono, alla madre di Valerio Lonzi, il più celebre rapito nostrano, uno scout ligure che, sotto ipnosi, ricordò in seguito di essere stato portato a bordo di un disco volante. Qualcosa di strano era accaduto anche a sua madre. Però, la donna, ancora ragazza all'epoca, aveva avvistato una luce nel cielo; dall'UFO era scaturito un fascio sfavillante che le aveva illuminato i piedi e che poi, gradatamente, era risalito via via sino al suo grembo, ove si era fermato di colpo. In seguito, la donna aveva scoperto di essere rimasta incinta Il caso di Rossana, invece, non ha avuto risvolti così drammatici. Un'altra ipotesi che è stata avanzata, essendo stato impossibile trovare una spiegazione convenzionale, è stata quella delle cosiddette "balls of lights", ossia le "sfere di luce", di cui abbiamo trattato già in un precedente numero di "Detective". Con il termine "sfere di luce" gli studiosi inglesi dei cerchi nel grano indicano gli enigmatici oggetti che, in molte occasioni, sono stati visti vorticare sulle spighe dei terreni agricoli e che, in non pochi casi, riescono a formare dal nulla i misteriosi disegni tra le messi. Dal comportamento simile a quello di una sonda telecomandata, i globi parrebbero essere azionati a distanza con lo scopo specifico di condurre esami.

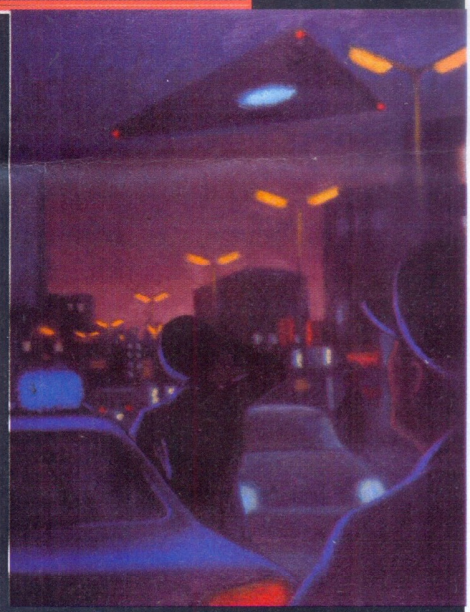
Quale che sia, comunque, l'intento e la natura di queste "balls", finalmente presenti ora anche in un video italiano, come non sottolineare il fatto che proprio quella parte del Mare Adriatico che va da Rimini a Riccione sia da vent'anni al centro di continui e ripetuti fenomeni di avvistamento di luci eteree più o meno a bassa quota?

Alfredo Lissoni



Fuso volante immortalato nel settembre del 1966 sulle acque antistanti il Gargano, in Puglia. Lo stesso oggetto è stato ripetutamente avvistato nella zona riminese nel 1978.

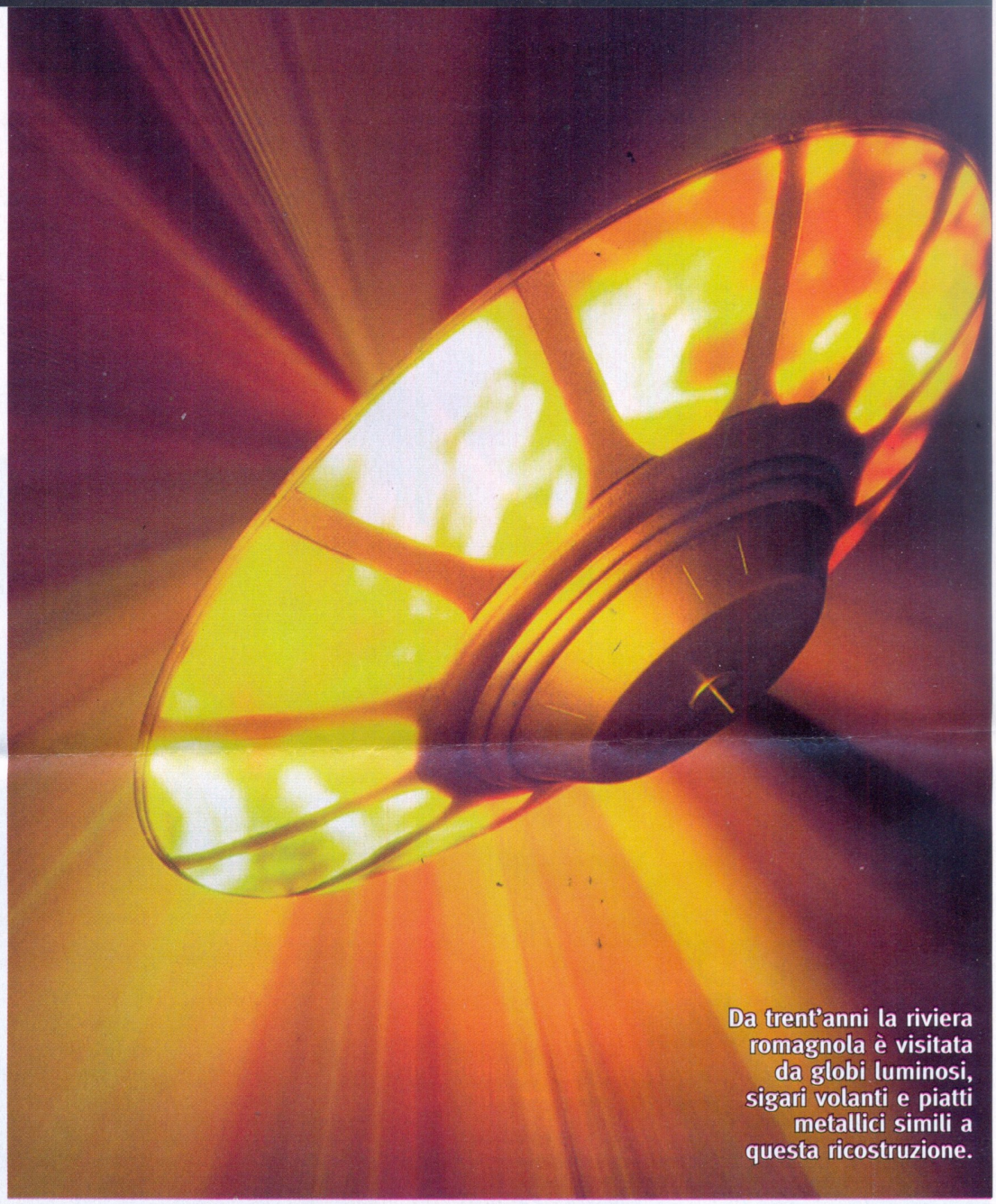
Gli UFO terrebbero costantemente sotto controllo il litorale romagnolo.



Un triangolo volante come quello segnalato da uno scienziato del CNR a S. Giuliano a Mare.

3-1-07

ROMAGNA, "MONITORANDO" DIVERSI LUOGHI E ALCUNE PERSONE



Da trent'anni la riviera romagnola è visitata da globi luminosi, sigari volanti e piatti metallici simili a questa ricostruzione.

Ma chi l'ha detto che gli UFO si vedono solo d'estate, quando cioè la gente è maggiormente portata ad alzare gli occhi al cielo, mentre si gode le meritate ferie? Infatti, da molti anni la costa adriatica che dalla Romagna scende sino alle Marche è continuamente teatro di apparizioni strane, sia d'estate che d'inverno. Sfere di pochi centimetri (le stesse segnalate sopra i cerchi nel grano, da qualche anno comparsi prepotentemente anche nelle campagne marchigiane), fusi infuocati visti innalzarsi dal mare (ai quali un fotografo di Bellaria, nel 1978, scattò ben due interi rullini, su indicazione dei carabinieri), persino oggetti metallici a forma di cuore, in quello che non a caso è considerato il litorale dell'amore, ricorrono ripetutamente nei dossier dei detective del mistero locali, come pure nei verbali che dal 1978, quando il fenomeno sembrò essere improvvisamente esploso, i carabinieri e la Capitaneria di Porto compilano regolarmente.

Gli increduli pensano a bolle di metano che affiorerebbero dal sottosuolo ma, se scorriamo le centinaia di segnalazioni raccolte dal Centro Ufologico Nazionale (e presentate su Internet sul sito www.cun-italia.net), troviamo non pochi indizi che spingono a pensare che si tratti di un fenomeno intelligente.

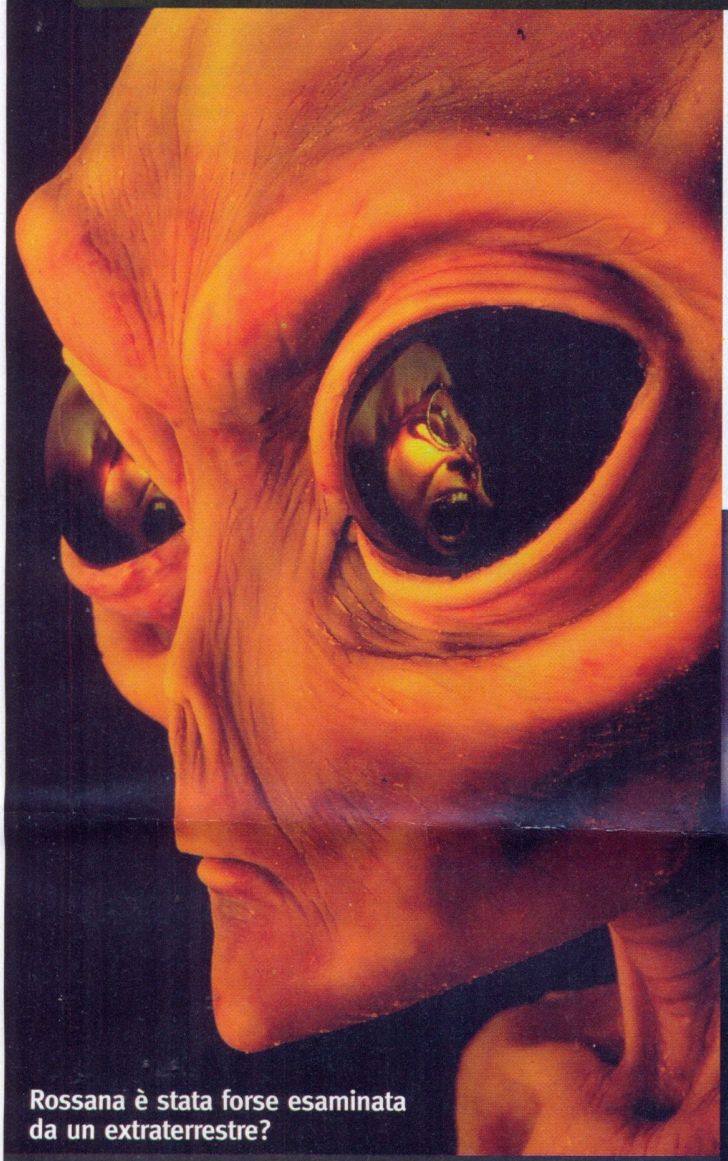
Come nel caso del "disco azzurro con cupola", che si sollevò dal mare di Bellaria la sera dell'8 dicembre 1986 o come i "tre globi luminosi che si immergevano nel mare" dinnanzi a non pochi, esterrefatti testimoni, nel tardo pomeriggio del 22 febbraio 1987 a Riccione. C'è il "globo luminoso" atterrato il 19 agosto 1988 a S. Sofia, tanto che al suolo lasciò una traccia di erba bruciata per sette metri. E il "triangolo volante" avvistato, il 1° febbraio 1999 alle 19.30 a S. Giuliano a Mare da un analista bolognese del CNR, che ha voluto rimanere anonimo. L'elenco potrebbe proseguire a lungo, ma fermiamoci qua. Limitiamoci a ricordare che, l'ultima volta che gli UFO erano stati filmati, dando quindi bella prova di sé, era l'estate del 1998. Quella sera, a Rimini, un bagnante riuscì ad immortalare, con la sua videocamera, una strana luce arancio. Ma il caso che abbiamo recentemente investigato, l'ultimo della serie, è indubbiamente quello più stupefacente.

L'Ufo sul monitor

Erano le undici di una sera qualsiasi d'inizio ottobre 2005 a Viserbella, in provincia di Rimini. La signora che ha vissuto l'incredibile incontro ravvicinato, e che chiameremo convenzionalmente Rossana, dato che ha richiesto l'anonimato, non pensava certo agli extraterrestri, quando vide su un monitor a circuito chiuso quegli strani globi penetrati in casa sua. Ma andiamo con ordine. Rossana gestisce uno dei tanti alberghi della cittadina sulla costa riminese, frequentatissimi d'estate e rigorosamente chiusi d'inverno. La sua abitazione è collegata all'ufficio (dove si sono verificati gli eventi di cui andiamo a raccontare) da un sistema di telecamere all'infrarosso a circuito chiuso, installate per scoraggiare i malintenzionati.

«Quella sera, una come tante, mi sono accorta che sul monitor delle telecamere poste sull'entrata e sul retro dell'ufficio si vedeva una strana luce», mi ha raccontato la signora Rossana. «Ho pensato

UN'ESPERIENZA SIMILE È STATA VISSUTA DALLA MADRE DI VALERIO LONZI,



Rossana è stata forse esaminata da un extraterrestre?

La possibilità di riprendere i globi di luce con una telecamera a circuito chiuso era stata anticipata dal film "K-Pax" che, non a caso, tratta di un presunto alieno in visita sulla Terra.

Ricostruzione di un rapimento UFO. Altre persone, come nel caso dell'albergatrice di Rimini, hanno vissuto esperienze meno traumatiche di questa.

ad uno scherzo, a dei ragazzi che con una torcia elettrica stessero giocando, proiettando il raggio da fuori. Sul video, infatti, si vedeva nettamente un fascio luminoso, composto da tante sfere sospese in aria, che entravano dalla finestra e che illuminavano lo stanzone con diversi gradi di intensità.

«Confesso che, dopo un po', ho cominciato a spaventarmi. Quello scherzo, decisamente stupido, stava durando un po' troppo. A quel punto, ho chiamato una mia lavorante slava e le ho chiesto di andare a controllare e, se fosse stato il caso, di scacciare quei monelli. Nel frattempo, ho guardato fuori, in direzione del chiarore, ma non ho visto nessuno. Non c'era alcun burlone con la torcia elettrica. Allora ho iniziato a seguire tutta la scena sul monitor. Ho visto la mia ragazza entrare in ufficio ed essere colpita dal fascio di luce. Sul momento non è accaduto nulla. La ragazza, pensando allora ad un riflesso proveniente da fuori, si è affrettata a coprire con la tenda la porta a vetro da cui entrava il faro, ma in quel momento è accaduto qualcosa d'incredibile. Non solo il fenomeno non è cessato ma, anzi, è aumentato. Le sfere hanno cominciato come a vibrare; alcune hanno preso ad oscillare, diventando più luminose, uscendo dal raggio per poi compiere delle brevi evoluzioni e ricongiungersi infine al fascio stesso. La luce proveniva dalla direzione opposta alla videocamera d'ingresso, e quindi potevo vederla nitidamente sul monitor.

«Ho continuato ad osservare ed ho visto che la mia lavorante, costernata, non riuscendosi a spiegare lo strano fenomeno, decideva infine di chiudere tutte le imposte. Fuori non si vedeva assolutamente nessuno, né c'erano cause che potessero produrre quell'insolita manifestazione. Se si fosse trattato di qualcosa di convenzionale, con le finestre chiuse e la luce accesa non avremmo dovuto vedere più nulla, ma al contrario il fascio era diventato ancora più intenso... ».

Che cosa stava mai succedendo? Il fenomeno andò avanti per un'ora (nel frattempo la ragazza era tornata in casa e poteva osservarlo dal monitor, assieme con

L'ALTO MEDIOEVO, NATO CON LE INVASIONI BARBARICHE, VIDE UN SUSSEGUIRSI

E con i BARBARI arrivarono anche gli ALIENI

Travi infuocate e scudi luminosi, croci di fuoco e santi "nella luce", satelliti, lumi fantasma e fortezze volanti: gli UFO vennero visti dai capi barbari che si spartirono l'Europa. In molti si spaventarono, e vi fu anche chi pensò bene di convertirsi

Si racconta che nel 312 l'Imperatore romano Impero Costantino, appena prima della battaglia di Ponte Milvio contro Massenzio, avvistò nel cielo della Gallia (l'attuale Francia) una croce di luce con la scritta "Con questo segno vincerai". L'augurio sarebbe stato profetico e l'imperatore, prontamente convertitosi al Cristianesimo, avrebbe sbaragliato il nemico e sarebbe stato proclamato "Cesare Augusto" a Roma. Ciò che potrebbe essere stato un evento ufologico (di UFO in formazione a croce ne sono stati visti molti,

DI PRESENZE INSOLITE NEL CIELO. E LA CHIESA ANNOTÒ FEDELMENTE OGNI COSA

persino negli ultimi anni), fu interpretato, romanzato ed abilmente propagandato come una sorta d'investitura divina. Ma l'impero romano aveva ormai vita breve, visto che le invasioni barbariche avrebbero per sempre cancellato i fasti della Roma imperiale, aprendo la strada al Medioevo (476-1492).

Convertito da E.T.!

Costantino non fu l'unico sovrano a convertirsi grazie agli UFO. Anche un altro re avrebbe trovato la fede grazie ad un avvistamento.

Era il 789 e il duca longobardo Rachis stava cavalcando nei pressi del Monte Amiata, Siena, quando d'un tratto un globo di luce scese dal cielo e si fermò sulla cima di un grosso abete, dividendosi in tre sfere luminose e pulsanti. Terrorizzato dalla visione e convinto di avere visto nientemeno che la S.S. Trinità, Rachis decise di abdicare e di vestire il saio. Sul luogo dell'avvistamento fu costruita addirittura un'abbazia, che diede al paese l'attuale nome, Abbadia S. Salvatore. Nella chiesa i pellegrini possono ancor oggi osservare un quadro commemorativo, la cui didascalia riporta: "Sopra un abete il Re de l'Alto Regno con Trina face in un doppier si mostra ad un re pio. Son questi il luogo e 'l legno".

Ma gli amanuensi dell'Alto Medioevo (ossia sino all'anno Mille) hanno conservato per noi memoria di molti altri eventi insoliti. Costoro furono soprattutto monaci cronisti, antenati dei moderni storici e giornalisti, al seguito dei sovrani barbari che, poco alla volta, stavano sostituendosi all'aristocrazia della Roma dei Cesari. Da questi antichi scribi apprendiamo che il 13 ottobre 753, a 14 miglia sulla via Cassia, presso Vetralla, «fu vista una palla di fuoco cadere a nord in territorio longobardo», proprio mentre i longobardi stavano attaccando Roma. Qualcosa del genere era già successo nel 452, quando le truppe del feroce capo barbaro Attila si stavano dirigendo verso l'Urbe. La repentina apparizione di due armigeri nel cielo, poi interpretati come "S. Pietro e S. Paolo", bloccò le armate e convinse il temibile saccheggiatore ad un immediato dietro-front.

CADDE DA CAVALLO
A sinistra, una raffigurazione del re franco Carlo Magno. Il sovrano, diretto ad Acquisgrana nell'810, cadde da cavallo, dopo aver visto in cielo un globo luminosissimo.

Gli X-File del Vaticano

Eventi analoghi sono spesso descritti anche nelle cronache ecclesiastiche (e chissà che cosa ne pensava il Vaticano). Il vescovo Gregorio di Tours, autore della "Storia dei Franchi", scrisse di «globi straordinariamente luminosi» che sorvolarono il territorio francese nel 583; mentre negli "Annales laurissenses" si scrisse che nel 776 due scudi volanti guidarono i Sassoni contro la cavalleria di Carlo Magno a Sigiburg; calati dal cielo, li aiutarono a vincere la battaglia, mettendo in fuga i Franchi, terrorizzati nel vederli planare al di sopra di una cappella.

Lo stesso Carlo Magno, a sua volta, avvistò un UFO nell'810, mentre era diretto ad Aquisgrana, in Germania. Lo raccontò il suo biografo Eginardo, che riportò di come il re avesse visto «repentinamente scendere dal cielo un globo dalla luce ingente» che si dirigeva «da destra a sinistra correndo per l'aria serena». L'improvvisa apparizione «fece impennare il cavallo del monarca, che cadde a terra ferendosi gravemente»!

Un'altra cronaca, dello stesso periodo, riporta di "sfere misteriose" osservate dai soldati di Pipino I°, durante una spedizione militare in Spagna. A proposito di un'aspra battaglia combattuta nell'827, la "Vita di Ludovico il Pio" riferì: «In verità, quel disastro fu preceduto da terribili apparizioni di cose nell'aria. Durante la notte, esse erano talvolta fievoli chiarori, talvolta fuochi splendenti e rossi come il sangue».

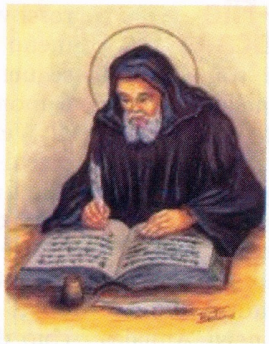
Nelle "Cronache anglosassoni" si legge di «potentissime luci che apparvero nell'anno 795 sulla Northumbria, spaventando gli abitanti». «Erano luci», commentò il cronista, «quali nessuno ha mai visto, simili a lampi; e si videro anche draghi rossi volare nell'aria». Il fenomeno si ripeté anche l'anno seguente, come lo testimoniò il monaco benedettino Roger di Wendover: «Nell'anno 796 piccoli globi volanti attorno al sole furono visti in diverse regioni dell'Inghilterra».

Ma le testimonianze più intriganti arrivano dall'Irlanda dove, secondo il libro "Specchio del Re" (un manoscritto d'epoca medievale), nel 956, sopra la chiesa di S. Kinarus nel borgo di Cloera e per un tempo sufficientemente lungo da consentire un'osservazione dettagliata, una "nave del diavolo" stazionò in cielo; da essa sarebbe sceso un essere antropomorfo, dedito a "strane manovre", che a stento sarebbe riuscito a sottrarsi alla troppo invadente curiosità degli irlandesi, tornando a bordo del vascello a rotta di collo, per fuggir via.

27-4-06

IL MONACO BENEDETTINO BEDA È PASSATO ALLA STORIA PER ESSERE STAT

Il monaco detective



CRONISTI FEDELI. Gli storici del Medioevo furono fedeli cronisti di quanto accadde non solo sulla terra, ma anche in cielo.

Lo storico Beda (672-735), monaco benedettino di Wearmouth, fu un vero e proprio detective del mistero. Nella sua "Storia degli inglesi" scrisse che una notte del 664, mentre alcune religiose stavano pregando nel cimitero del convento di Barking, presso il Tamigi, «una gran luce discese dal cielo, le circondò, poi girò attorno al monastero», prima di perdersi nella profondità del cielo. La luce era così forte che «avrebbe fatto impallidire il sole a mezzogiorno». Il mattino seguente, alcuni giovani fedeli dichiararono che i raggi erano penetrati con luminosità accecante attraverso le fessure delle porte e delle finestre. Inutile dire che da quel momento le monache si chiusero in cella e non vollero più uscire.

Beda ha conservato per noi altri episodi: «Verso l'anno 600 d.C. Pietro, abate del monastero di S. Agostino presso Canterbury, fu mandato in Gallia come legato ed annegò presso Ambleteuse. Ogni notte una luce dal cielo apparve sulla sua tomba, finché la gente del luogo giudicò che esso dovesse essere stato un uomo di Dio, dissotterrò il suo cadavere e lo seppellì nella chiesa di S. Maria a Boulogne». Ed ancora: «Nell'anno del Signore 634 il corpo di Osvaldo, re di Nortumbria, ucciso in battaglia, fu lasciato su un carro davanti al monastero di Bardney, nel Lincolnshire. Per tutta la notte si vide una colonna di luce che partendo dal cocchio raggiungeva il cielo, così da essere chiaramente visibile da quasi tutte le località della provincia di Lindsay». E poi: «Nel 630 d. C., due presbiteri inglesi furono uccisi dai pagani in Sassonia, i loro corpi furono gettati nel Reno. Un grandissimo raggio di luce che raggiungeva il cielo ogni notte li seguì, mentre essi galleggiavano sul fiume. Pipino, duca dei Franchi, fece seppellire i loro corpi con molto onore nella chiesa di San Cuniberto». Questi e molti altri casi sono stati raccolti per i posteri da Beda, che mai avrebbe immaginato, però, di diventare il primo detective ufologo della storia.

Alfredo Lissoni

Fig. 1

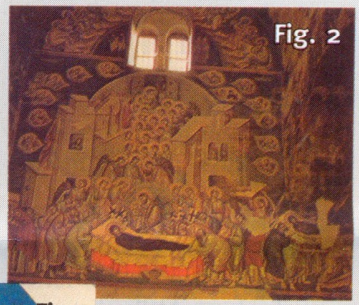


Fig. 2

Fig. 1 Gli UFO furono ripetutamente avvistati sia dagli antichi greci, sia dai romani, prima della calata dei barbari in Italia.

Fig. 2 UFO bizantini: si notino le strane nuvole "pilotate" da santi e beati, al di sopra della Madonna morente. L'affresco, del XIII secolo, si trova nella Chiesa di S. Clemente a Ocrida, in Grecia.

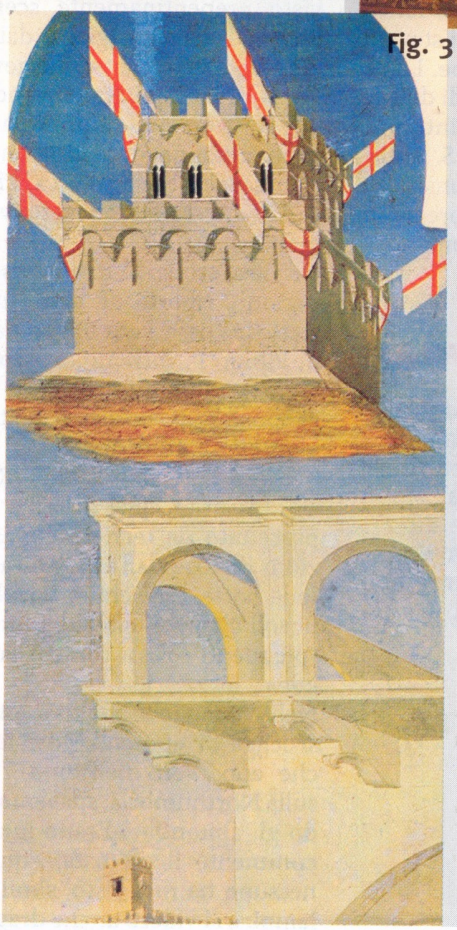


Fig. 3

Fig. 3 Una "fortezza volante" comparsa sopra Borgo S. Sepolcro nel giorno dell'Annunciazione; la visione ispirò al pittore Sassetta da Cortona il quadro "La carità di S. Francesco", di cui vediamo il dettaglio ufologico.

Fig. 4 UFO anche nella letteratura medievale ebraica. Alcuni rabbini e cittadini osservano una "cometa" con la faccia. L'illustrazione è presente nel testo "Parabola antica" del rabbino Jitzhaq Ibn Abi Sahulah, del 1483.

Fig. 4

UN DETECTIVE DEL MISTERO

Fig. 5

Fig. 5 La misteriosa croce volante scorta dall'imperatore Costantino, alla vigilia della battaglia di Ponte Milvio. E se fosse stata un UFO?

Fig. 10

Fig. 10 L'apparizione di misteriose figure nel cielo, in pieno Medioevo, terrorizzò gli abitanti di Adria.

Fig. 6

Fig. 6 Il globo di luce che sorvola una nave, viene reinterpretato come la benevolenza di un santo.

Fig. 11

Fig. 11 Gli antichi romani definivano "scudi" ("clipei") i dischi volanti che sfrecciavano nel cielo e "travi infuocate" (trabes ignitae) i velivoli fusiformi.

Fig. 7

Fig. 7 Gli amanuensi e scribi medievali hanno raccolto per noi innumerevoli cronache di apparizioni extraterrestri.

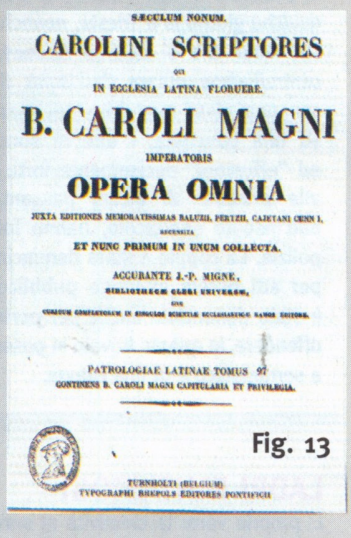
Fig. 12

Fig. 12 Misteriosi "angeli in astronave" in un affresco slavo del 1335, nel monastero di Visoki Deçani, Kosovo.

Fig. 8

Fig. 8 Misteriosi "lumi" sopra il borgo medievale di Sanseverino.

Fig. 13 L'avvistamento UFO (con relativo incidente) di Carlo Magno è raccontato nella biografia di Eginardo.



SÆCULUM NONUM.

CAROLINI SCRIPTORES

QUI

IN ECCLESIA LATINA FLORUERE.

B. CAROLI MAGNI

IMPERATORIS

OPERA OMNIA

JUXTA EDITIONES MEMORATISSIMAS BALUZII, PERTZII, CAJETANI CENNI I.

RECENSITA

ET NUNC PRIMUM IN UNUM COLLECTA.

ACCURANTE J.-P. MIGNE,

BIBLIOTHECÆ CLERI UNIVERSI,

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PATROLOGIÆ LATINÆ TOMUS 97

CONTINENS B. CAROLI MAGNI CAPITULARIA ET PRIVILEGIA.

TURNHOLTI (BELGIUM)

TYPOGRAPHI BREPOLS EDITORES PONTIFICII

Fig. 13

Fig. 9

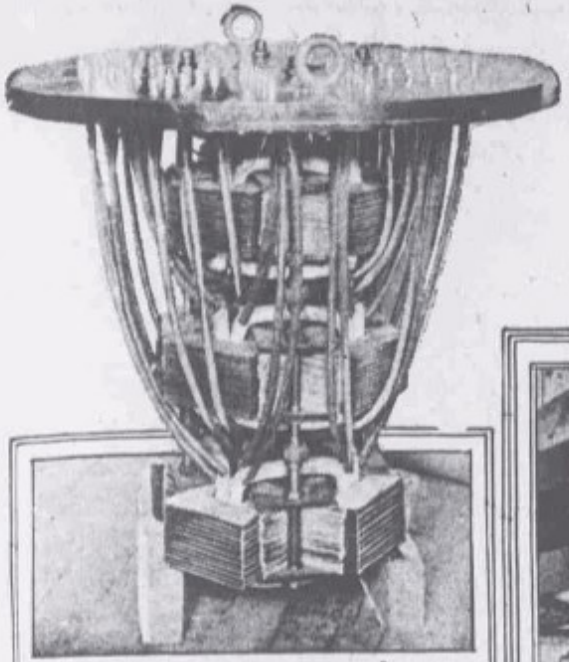
Fig. 9 Gli antichi barbari sostenevano di scorgere nel cielo "travi infuocate", talvolta in grado di produrre boati talmente violenti da far crollare le case.

Fig. 14

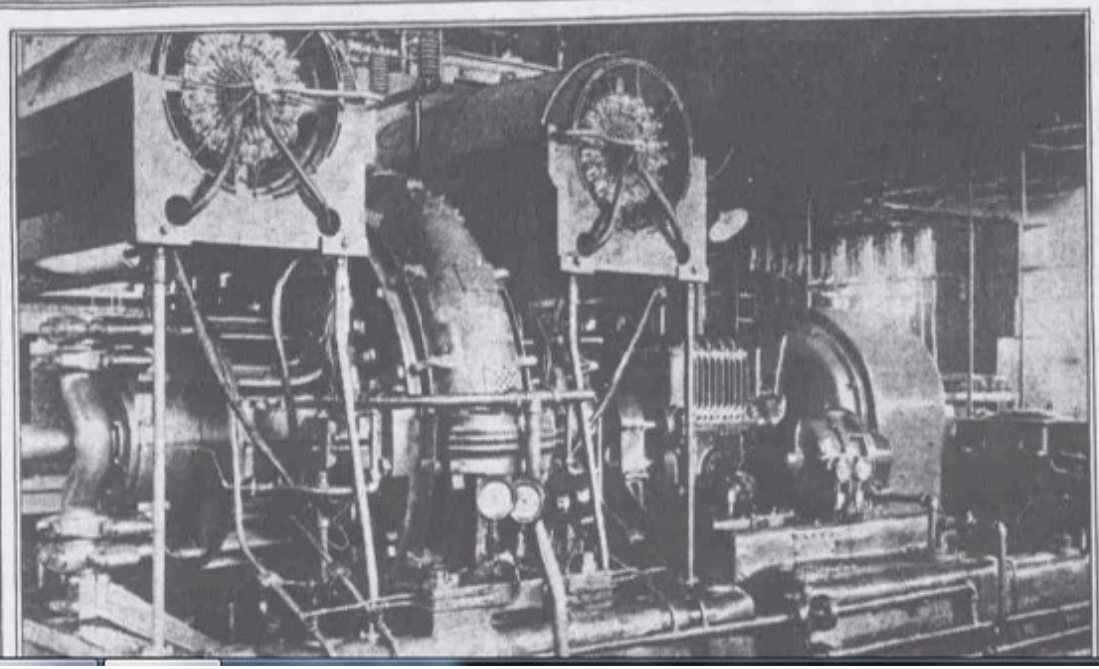
Fig. 14 Un satellite con quattro antenne in una moneta romana dell'epoca di Pertinace, 193 d.C.

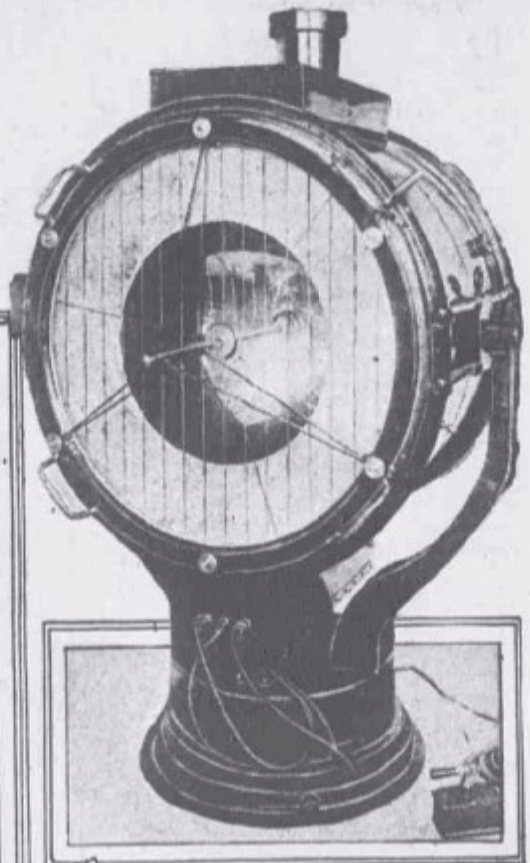
Scientists Tell How We May Signal Mars With Light

Dr. Hewitt and Other Authorities, Doubtful of Radio's Power to Transmit Interstellar Messages, Pin Faith to Flashing Greeting That the Martians Might See—Many New Marvels Predicted in Next Decade



The ALEXANDERSON MAGNETIC AMPLIFIER





A SPERRY

By ROBERT G. SKERRETT.

"POSSIBLE? Yes; but hardly probable." Such is the way Peter Cooper Hewitt, the eminent physicist, sums up the much discussed topic of wireless messages from Mars.

"Don't misunderstand me," he continued. "I am sceptical only so far as it concerns the Martian origin of the signals

curred the most remarkable magnetic storm on record during which within a few

Signor Marconi has recently intercepted. To me the chances are many times greater that they had a terrestrial source, and this belief does not rob the topic of a cause for wonderment.

"We are at the threshold of amazing things, and the potentiality of signals despatched at will across interstellar space is by no means the most startling of these. In the next five or ten years we shall be doing things that now seem inconceivable to the average person. Science and invention are co-ordinating; bringing to a focus scattered knowledge, diversified efforts, and powers of imagination that will make miracles veritable commonplaces. And if we wish, we shall be able to span the gap between this world and planets millions of miles away by means of impulses, radiations, which shall utilize as a conductor the medium through which and in which the entire stellar system moves, the universal ether.

"Personally I do not think wireless waves would best serve to carry our greetings to other planets. I am satisfied that it would be far easier to accomplish this through light, the rays of which now give us visible consciousness of the existence of other celestial bodies. But apart from this promise of the future, let us see what it is that is going on right here upon this globe of ours which may be directly or indirectly responsible for the unexplained action of Signor Marconi's receiving apparatus.

U-Boat Detector Developed.

"During our participation in the world war as a member of the Naval Consulting Board I gave a good deal of time to experiments having to do with the development of an electrical submarine detector. Without confusing the present subject matter, it will be enough if I explain that the recording instrument traced upon smoke coated discs of paper zigzag or waving lines indicating the degree and variations of received impulses. At times, and at periods of approximately identical intervals, the needle would trace an exaggerated wave or 'peak' indicating an exceptional electrical disturbance. Upon examining these record sheets recently I have been struck by the fact that they had an average period of thirty minutes from peak to peak, in this resembling the recurrence of Signor Marconi's signals attributed to another world.

"Again, it has been brought to my attention that an ordinary compass needle here in New York will deflect a degree or more

affairs, more or less periodically, may induce simultaneously otherwise unexplainable signals at remotely separated wireless stations.

At his laboratory here in New York Dr. Hewitt's exquisitely sensitive receiving apparatus picks up sounds emanating from all sorts of sources within Manhattan's limits. For instance, he can identify the "note" of the distant electric motor of a hotel elevator; he can distinguish the labored effeort of an electrically driven pump many blocks away, and, still further off, the measured pulse of great synchronous generators, which have for the moment got out of stride with one another, are audible by reason of his wonderfully responsive instruments. As Dr. Hewitt explains:

"The manifold noises of our thousands of dynamos and electric motors combine to produce a certain characteristic 'note,' and the pitch of this is an index of our demand

earth's electrical charge. How can we do this? Frankly, I don't profess to know, but Mr. Nikola Tesla is satisfied that the needful effect can be realized through the medium of a suitable oscillator patterned after the type which he has already evolved. In substance, he would rock the earth electrically—not actually. If this be practicable then we need not trouble much about the outcome so far as communication across instellar space is concerned, provided, of course, that the beings of the other world are likewise able to send answering signals.

"As a matter of fact we don't know what may be the language of the denizens of Mars; but if an exchange of signals be possible we have plenty of people here endowed with the peculiar gift of deciphering codes and getting at the meaning of seemingly senseless jumbles of letters and numbers. Starting with a simple basis of

minutes, the earth's magnetic movement, or intensity of magnetization, was altered by about one-twentieth to one-thirtieth part. The earth's magnetic condition was below par for fully three months thereafter. This severe storm was accompanied by a brilliant display of polar lights."

Have we thus already managed unintentionally to let Mars hear from us? Or was that upsetting of the earth's magnetization too puny to send its ethereal reactions across the universal gap?

There are recognized authorities in electricity who are satisfied that we are insulated by what is known as the "Heaviside layer," a conducting blanket of rarified, ionized gases which lies upon the upper limits of our atmosphere something like fifty miles above the surface of the earth. The theory of the "Heaviside layer" is that it would absorb any wireless impulses propagated from another planet and thus prevent their reaching our receiving apparatus. Similarly it is agreed that waves of radio frequencies emanating from us would not be able to pierce this screen and travel thence to another world.

De Forest Is Sceptical.

Leo De Forest, one of the exponents of wireless, is satisfied that the "Heaviside layer" does exist, and therefore that Signor Marconi has not been "hearing from Mars." As he puts it:

"All of this discussion in favor of Martian communication by radio is simply bosh. The signals which have puzzled that distinguished Italian are in no wise unique. Radio engineers have had to contend with them time and time again, and I can see no connection between their particular recurrence in his case and the fact that Mars is now approaching its opposition; i. e., its shortest distance from the earth.

"If the Martians have given heed at all to the likelihood of our existence and possess the higher intelligence born of an older world—for Mars, being much smaller than our own globe, must have become fit for habitation long before the earth—why would they try to utilize wireless instead of light as a medium of communication? Whatever may be their physical getup, it is safe to say the Martians, if they now exist, are endowed with organs of vision, and they have probably more completely mastered many of the sciences of which our grasp is only the grammar school stage. With their mature wisdom I don't believe they would

electrical submarine detector. Without confusing the present subject matter, it will be enough if I explain that the recording instrument traced upon smoke coated discs of paper zigzag or waving lines indicating the degree and variations of received impulses. At times, and at periods of approximately identical intervals, the needle would trace an exaggerated wave or 'peak' indicating an exceptional electrical disturbance. Upon examining these record sheets recently I have been struck by the fact that they had an average period of thirty minutes from peak to peak, in this resembling the recurrence of Signor Marconi's signals attributed to another world.

"Again, it has been brought to my attention that an ordinary compass needle here in New York will deflect a degree or more in the course of a few minutes, and will do this repeatedly, moving back and forth as if affected by a shifting magnetic field. Indeed, this is the cause of the needle's action, and indicates unmistakably the change of direction of our local magnetic field. Now the compass needle does not measure intensity, but only the direction, of this shifting magnetism. However, we have other instruments that can evaluate the force involved; and this force is of a magnitude that could exercise a far reaching effect, perhaps half way across the Atlantic.

"True, this is infinitesimal compared with the tremendous void between us and Mars, but the phenomenon is significant when we realize that it is the cumulative and the unexpected consequence of our civilization as expressed by some phases of metropolitan activities. That is to say, our multiple electrical generators hereabouts are setting up reflex perturbations of sufficient strength to radiate broadcast throughout a wide flung zone.

"Similarly London is the centre of another zone of such disturbance; and there is ample warrant for the assumption that this artificial modifying of the earth's distribution of magnetism may be one of the agencies of wireless 'strays.' In the same way other great cities and foci of intense industrial activity may contribute to the sum total of magnetic derangement."

The logical inference is that this state of

stations.

At his laboratory here in New York Dr. Hewitt's exquisitely sensitive receiving apparatus picks up sounds emanating from all sorts of sources within Manhattan's limits. For instance, he can identify the "note" of the distant electric motor of a hotel elevator; he can distinguish the labored effeort of an electrically driven pump many blocks away, and, still further off, the measured pulse of great synchronous generators, which have for the moment got out of stride with one another, are audible by reason of his wonderfully responsive instruments. As Dr. Hewitt explains:

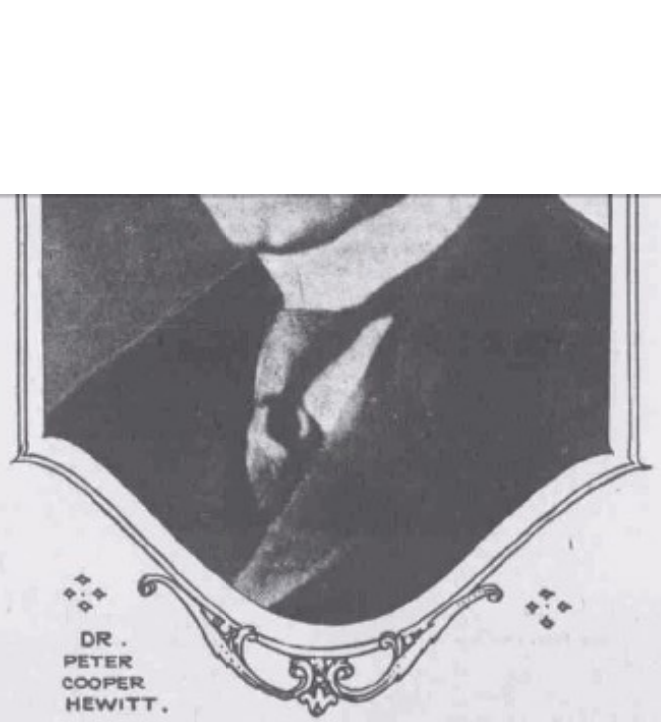
"The manifold noises of our thousands of dynamos and electric motors combine to produce a certain characteristic 'note,' and the pitch of this is an index of our demand for power, light and heat agreeably to our uses of the energizing current.

"I merely mention this fact to bring out the possibility of man made electrical disturbances contributing unexpectedly to wireless impulses other than those deliberately despatched for intercommunication. Of course we all know that there are atmospheric conditions wherein the sun, thunder storms, &c., not only interfere with the transmission of wireless signals but induce the equivalent of dots and dashes on their own account. These have a distinctive sound or quality which any trained operator should recognize.

Earth Essential to System.

"But to return to the possibility of signalling to Mars or any other planet by means of wireless let us first consider some of the underlying conditions which make radio intercourse, as we have it, feasible. Notwithtanding the fact that wireless waves loop their way through the atmosphere, touching the earth successively agreeably to their length, and finally are picked up hundreds or thousands of miles off by suitably attuned mechanisms, still they reach their destination by reason of their terrestrial contacts. In other words, the earth is an essential element in bridging the space between station and station. By earth, of course, I mean both land and water.

"In principle the controlling circum-



DR. PETER COOPER HEWITT.

stances do not differ where the despatched waves emanate from an aircraft, because these radiations must come to earth and then go rolling on much after the fashion of kindred impulses originating from a ship or shore station. Now, inasmuch as the earth is so essential an element in present-day wireless, how then could we hope to reach another planetary body? In other words, how could we expect to span the vast gap of space by this means, knowing that the radio waves would have no 'footing' on the way? I don't dare prophesy what the solution will be, but we have an inkling of a possible agency in a well known demonstration in physics.

"If a stick of sealing wax be rubbed with a piece of flannel and thereby electrified, and is then brought near to a small ball of pith suspended by a silk thread from a glass support, the pith ball will be instantly attracted to the sealing wax; but if the two come in contact the ball will be quickly repelled. The latter indicates that by this touch the surface of the ball has been locally charged with electricity of the same sign. The point I want to bring out is that the surface of the pith ball can be oppositely charged at different points, and also that the attractive and repelling forces set up between the sealing wax and the ball exert themselves over a relatively wide gap.

"Now, let us suppose that man could similarly transpose or alter the positive and the negative charges, i. e., the polarity, at two widely separated places on the surface of the earth, and do this in an extremely brief interval of time.

"Manifestly, if this could be accomplished the result would undoubtedly be to send afar into space radiations, ether waves, that might reach to one or the other of the planets, such as Mars or Venus, let us say. Again, if we could repeat these impulses at will, the earth being the basic medium of these perturbations, then we might finally attract the attention of the possible inhabitants of the remote celestial body and build up a code for common understanding. Of course, this presupposes that intelligent beings on the sphere millions of miles off will have the means of picking up wireless waves and be able ultimately to interpret our signals.

"The staggering part of the fundamental project lies in profoundly affecting the needful effect can be realized through the medium of a suitable oscillator patterned after the type which he has already evolved. In substance, he would rock the earth electrically—not actually. If this be practicable then we need not trouble much about the outcome so far as communication across instellar space is concerned, provided, of course, that the beings of the other world are likewise able to send answering signals.

"As a matter of fact we don't know what may be the language of the denizens of Mars; but if an exchange of signals be possible we have plenty of people here endowed with the peculiar gift of deciphering codes and getting at the meaning of seemingly senseless jumbles of letters and numbers. Starting with a simple basis of communication and adding to this step by step, a common purpose to arrive at an understanding would soon produce an intelligible key or system. Needless to remark, in the beginning, if the Martians are taking the initiative, there is nothing to warrant the belief that they would use the Morse code, which is a purely arbitrary alphabet of dots and dashes of man's fashioning and known only to a comparatively few of us here."

Might Disturb the Compass.

Getting in touch with Mars by so radical a method might not prove an unalloyed blessing. We might all too easily invite disasters through the reflex upon the mariner's compass and play havoc with the surveyor's efforts to run new lines.

Dr. L. A. Bauer, director of the department of terrestrial magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, has thus described some of the functionings of the earth as a magnet and what they mean to the geophysicist seeking to unravel this bewildering puzzle. To quote this eminent authority:

"Fortunately for him, however, nature comes to his relief somewhat and performs experiments for him on his great magnet on a worldwide scale by producing in an incredibly short time manifold and at times startling variations and fluctuations in the apparently fixed magnetization of the earth.

"Thus, on September 25, 1909, there co-

no connection between their particular recurrence in his case and the fact that Mars is now approaching its opposition; i. e., its shortest distance from the earth.

"If the Martians have given heed at all to the likelihood of our existence and possess the higher intelligence born of an older world—for Mars, being much smaller than our own globe, must have become fit for habitation long before the earth—why would they try to utilize wireless instead of light as a medium of communicaton? Whatever may be their physical getup, it is safe to say the Martians, if they now exist, are endowed with organs of vision, and they have probably more completely mastered many of the sciences of which our grasp is only the grammar school stage. With their maturer wisdom I don't believe they would squander their energies and material substance by turning to radio to reach us when beams of light could be mustered more economically and more effectively to that service.

"Let us suppose they have produced telescopes wherewith to scrutinize their celestial neighbors, near and remote, as the term goes in astronomy, and let us further imagine that their fraternity of star gazers have been looking our way for some time. They are not likely to be inspired thereby to go the limit in a desire to greet us, for this globe of ours probably fails to present to the Martians a picture anything like as alluring as their own planet seems to us."

This has been well explained by Sir Robert S. Ball, who says:

"It is a rare circumstance for any of the main topographical features, such as the outlines of its (Mars) so-called continents or the coasts of its so-called seas, to be obscured by clouds to an extent which is appreciable except by very refined observations. Quite otherwise would be the appearance which our globe would present to any observer who would view it, say, from Mars or from some other external world at the same distance. The greater part of our globe would seem swathed with vast clouds, through which only occasional peeps could be had at the actual configuration of

Continued on Tenth Page.

SIGNALLING MARS

Continued from Seventh Page.

its surface. . . . The distant astronomer would never be able to comprehend the whole of our earth's features in a birdseye glance, as we are able to do with those features on that hemisphere of Mars which happens to be turned toward us on a clear night."

Favors the Light Idea.

"Accordingly," says De Forest, "if the Martians are as wise as I think they should be they have already sent signals to planets more favorably disposed to them than we are, and ten to one they have found light best fitted for that purpose. When they decide to have a try at us we shall probably get notice of it by flashes despatched from that planet's dark side by way of an emphasizing background. And inasmuch as Mars is supposed to be our senior in the possession of animate life, it might be just as well for us as the celestial junior to wait until we are spoken to.

"With our present tremendous problems of readjustment to absorb our time and treasure, we need not feel under any obligation to cultivate Mars merely because Marconi is unable to identify the source of some troublesome 'strays.' When we are justified in answering Mars, or whatever other planet calls to us, the easiest and cheapest way to bring this about will probably be through the agency of powerful electric lights—adopting the plan suggested by Elmer A. Sperry. As is well known, the wonderful Sperry searchlight is capable of producing a beam having the illuminating intensity of 1,280,000,000 candle power.

"According to Mr. Sperry he would form a group of 150 to 200 of his searchlights and direct their combined beams in the direction of Mars. An aggregation of that sort would possess the luminous equivalent of a star of the seventh magnitude such as our telescopes are able to pick up readily. Therefore assuming that the Martians had glasses of equal power, they should have no trouble in catching that dot of light from a distance of 35,000,000 to 40,000,000 miles.

"It would be possible, no doubt, to operate Apparently he does not believe that the Marconi signals originated beyond the limits of our own sphere.

The fact that the French Academy of Sciences offers a reward of $20,000 for the best plan by which to make a sign to a heavenly body merely brings to light that twenty-nine years ago Mme. Guzmann made a bequest of 100,000 francs to be awarded as a prize to "the first person who shall be successful in communicating with another world other than the planet Mars."

It seems that the Academy in 1891 hesitated to accept the bequest, but finally did so, influenced by the proviso that if the prize was not claimed within succeeding periods of five years then the accumulated interest at each half decade should go toward helping serious work in astronomical progress.

Academy Accepts.

The Academy, in accepting the trust, declared that the intentions of the founder should be scrupulously executed, and then proceeded to quote Montaigne to this effect: "It is a stupid presumption to condemn as false all that which may not appear likely to us. There is no greater madness in the world than to reduce everything to the measure of our capacity and competence."

Remembering how Nikola Tesla in 1899, out in Colorado, picked up signals which he believed came from Mars—the signals varying in intensity as Mars reached opposition and then swept further away upon its orbit—the singularity of Mme. Guzmann's bequest becomes suggestive.

Why did she eliminate Mars from the possible planets to be reached? Had she any reason to believe that that had already been done and therefore constituted a warrant for effort elsewhere; or was that patron of interstellar communication convinced that there were no Martians left to respond to such a call?

One way or another Mr. Tesla was not rewarded, and certainly $20,000 would not make a kindred effort worth while now. A sum of that sort would be only a drop in the bucket that would have to be filled to make success possible.

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"It would be possible, no doubt, to operate these lights so that they could give slow signals which would fill all of the requirements of a system of communication. However, an array of lights of this character and the needful energizing plant would cost a very pretty sum. The outlay might be warranted some day, but certainly not until the other fellow 'far, far away' has seen fit to call us first."

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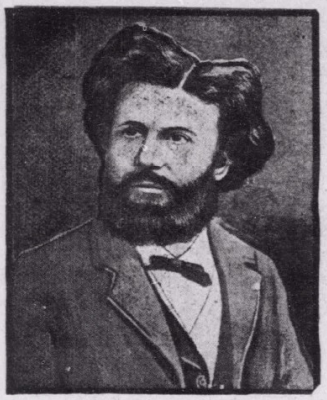
Ice a Popular Dainty

AMERICANS eat more ice cream and similar frozen desserts than the people of any other nation, but the Japanese have us surpassed as eaters of ice. One of their favorite dishes is small cakes of ice broken into tiny, pebbly pieces and

IRRIGATING AN ARID WORLD

LIFE SUSTAINED ON MARS THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF ITS WONDERFUL CANALS



Camille Flammarion

FANCY a company of Martian laborers, imported from their distant planet to dig the Panama Canal. How the dirt would fly!

Digging such a little ditch would be a matter of merely a few weeks' exercise. Each Martian, according to the most recent estimates of scientists, could toss over his shoulders two and a half tons at a shovelful—and the supreme achievement of the race is canal digging.

For the giants of Mars are canal makers through stern necessity. It is not for purposes of commerce that they have lined and ribbed their dying planet with a vast system of waterways. Only through the most gigantic network of canals conceivable are they able to keep life in their arid world and provide sustenance for themselves.

Scientists now declare that the many lines and dark spots on Mars represent verdure along a most wonderful canal system, which the inhabitants of the planet have constructed for purposes of irrigation.

Through these artificial waterways the melting snow and ice of the poles are carried to various parts of the planet, and so the Martians are able to raise their crops in season and to stay, for a time, the menacing dry decay of their world.

Surface of Mars Showing the Lines of the Canals.

SEVERAL of the greatest present-day astronomers—Lowell, Pickering, Flammarion, Morse and others—have practically agreed on the theory that Mars contains no rivers, lakes, oceans or any other source of water supply than the great caps of snow on the north and south poles.

In the summer time, when the people must produce vegetation or starve, the melting snow from those extremities of the sphere is carefully, systematically coaxed through artificial waterways to the furthermost sections where it is needed. The Martians even make the water run up hill, it is declared.

Among recent contributions to the learning of mankind on the subject of Mars is the result of thirty-five days' study of the planet made in the Lowell Observatory at Flagstaff, Ariz., by Professor E. S. Morse, member of the American National Academy of Science.

Of course, Professor Morse believes that Mars is inhabited. The astronomers all do, now. It is with relation to how the inhabitants live that his investigations are of value.

He goes on the assumption that Mars is a very old planet—millions of years older than this earth; that with the gradual flattening of her hills and filling in of her valleys, combined with seismic disturbances, she has retained none of her great bodies of water so necessary to life, and that her people would perish if their ingenuity did not every year bring water at critical times from the poles.

In one important matter Morse disagrees with some of the leading astronomers—with respect to the weather conditions in Mars.

Other authorities have stated that the atmosphere there is perfectly placid, so much so that when the weather becomes cold enough to cause frost and snow, the settling of the flakes cannot be considered a storm, only an accumulation.

But Morse is said to have become convinced that winds sweep over the surface of Mars; that there are dust storms on its deserts—in short, that it is a world in many respects like ours.

But most tragic of all the deductions which the astronomer has made from his thirty-four nights in the observatory is that Mars is making the greatest fight for existence ever recorded—the attempt of a planet to hang on to existence after its resources for the sustenance of life have been exhausted.

And the way in which this is done is the perfecting of a canal system.

The curious markings on the face of Mars which are now accepted to be canals were first discovered by Professor Giovanni Schiaparelli, an Italian astronomer, many years ago. Of the recent studies as to the meanings of these lines, by far the most important have been made at the Lowell Observatory.

"The lines of Mars are," Professor Morse says, "almost without exception, geodetically straight, supernaturally so—and this is in spite of their leading in every possible direction. They invariably begin and end at definite places."

As to the meaning of the lines, the scientist believes that they cannot possibly be earthquake fissures, because Mars long since ceased to show any activities which might have caused cracks in her surface, and the old ones would have been long ago eliminated.

Therefore he thinks it perfectly reasonable to suppose that they were designed for a definite purpose—to conduct water from those regions where water is found for the purpose of irrigation.

He admits that he had not been a believer in the idea of canals on Mars when he began his study; he desired to acquire all his information relating to the subject at first hand.

"As to the existence of water," he says, "one has only to consider the polar snowcaps. In the height of the southern winter the snowcaps measure more than 2000 miles across, covering 55 degrees of latitude unbrokenly. As the spring advances the snow begins to melt, disappearing rapidly as summer comes on, its place being taken by dark patches of water."

Some time ago actual photographs of the Martian canals were taken at the Lowell Observatory by C. O. Lampland. This was a wonderful accomplishment, considering that the nearest point of Mars is 35,650,000 miles from the earth, and even when the atmosphere is clear enough to permit a view of the fine lines, the dancing rays of nebulous light make it almost impossible to see with distinctness.

The photographs in themselves were small and of little world pictorially, but it has been possible from them to make a chart of the Martian canals which may be accepted as practically correct.

But even when the atmosphere is perfectly clear, the canals are not visible all the year round. In fact, they appear and disappear with seasonal regularity.

Some critics have used this fact as argument against the lines being really canals for, they said, if it be assumed that a finite power dug the canals how can we account for that power's foolishly filling them up again?

This Professor Percival Lowell, non-resident professor of astronomy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, explains in a novel way.

The strips which we see, says Professor Lowell, are not really the canals, but are strips of vegetation which spring up along the canals when the great sluices are full of water, and are not visible at other times.

Prof. Percival Lowell

Prof. W.H. Pickering

And this he apparently substantiates by saying that the green strips deepen in color as the days pass, just as foliage deepens in hue with the advance of the season.

Another argument. The photographs show that one or two of the canals show double lines, while the others are in single lines. This might indicate that the double-lined ones are the main canals—the feeders—which are so much wider than the others that the vegetation on both sides may be distinguished, while in the narrower ones it seems—so great is the distance—like a single line.

On Mars, not only do two and three lines run through a common point, but as many as seventeen lines may be observed running through a common centra. Such exceptional accuracy of form points to a mind which directed the power that wrought the change.

Ordinarily—leaving the lines out of the question—the surface of Mars, as revealed by the telescope, consists of spaces of two different colors—some orange, others blue-green.

A few years back the blue-green spaces were considered seas, and were christened by various names. The orange parts, on the other hand, were presumed to be continents.

Changed are these old physical geography notions. Now the blue-green spaces are practically known to be the vegetation created by the annual inundation from the canals, while the orange spaces are called deserts.

In other words, Mars is all land, except that the parts which sometimes show up blue-green have water in them at one season of the year, while the orange parts are continuous Saharas.

What are the spots where the canals interlace? Professor Pickering's polariscope has apparently dispelled the idea that they are lakes.

Professor Lowell, who has located 185 of these spots, is said to be of the opinion that they are oases, and that they are each spring irrigated by the canals, which approach them from different directions.

"Whatever constitutes the canals," said Professor Lowell recently, "it is evident that their development proceeds from the pole down the disk, and, furthermore, that it advances over the surface at a fairly regular rate.

"It starts at the summer solstice; that is, it follows the melting of the polar cap. In consequence of the water then let loose, the canals come into being."

Professor Lowell believes that practically all source of water supply for the planet is about the poles. So long as the sun remains over the equator there is no water.

On Mars the vegetation spreads from the poles, because the snow must melt and the water flow into the canals before verdure can grow. And in this connection Professor Lowell has made one of the most astounding of all his statements. He says:

"The quickening proceeds rapidly, and very nearly, if not quite, uniformly down the disk. It takes the darkening only five days to descend from the seventy-fifth parallel to the equator, a journey of 2000 miles. This means a speed of fifty-three miles a day, or two and two-tenths miles an hour. And it does this in the face of gravity."

In fact, in plain language, the astronomer declares that not only does human intelligence in Mars dig the vast canals thousands of miles in length, but that, by some mysterious method, it causes the water to run up hill!

Professor Camille Flammarion, who has made a careful study of the planet, has been for several years watching the snowfalls on Mars. He believes that the Martian seasons may be subject to as many vicissitudes as ours, instead of being actuated by the exceptional constancy hitherto attributed to them. He agrees that the canal systems are artificial and were constructed with a view to irrigation.

What manner of people are these who do such remarkable things? Obviously, a quite different kind from the inhabitants of this earth.

According to the best authorities, founded on the most recent investigations, the Martian is a creature immensely more powerful, physically, than earth mortals, even earth giants. This is deduced from the lesser pull of gravity on Mars.

A Martian could run 100 yards in three or four seconds, could leap over a high tree, could kick a football a quarter of a mile.

Because of the lesser attraction of gravity he may be at least three or four times as big as the average human being, perhaps even much larger than that. Another thing which, perhaps, adds weight to this belief is that, on account of the rarefied air on Mars, a Martian must require three times as much lung space as an earth mortal to get enough air to live; and his body must be proportioned accordingly.

Bodies on the planet Mars weigh but a third as much in proportion to size as they do here; so it is believed that a Martian laborer could perform as much work in a given time as fifty or sixty terrestrial ditch diggers; that he could handle two and a half tons of dirt at a shovelful. So his annual irrigation work may not be as difficult as it seems.

The Martian year is much longer; in fact, nearly twice as long as ours. It takes Mars 687 days to travel on its orbit around the sun.

The next few years may see the secrets of Mars disclosed as never before. It is conceded that in the clear light of the earth's South Pole telescopic observations may be made with unprecedented success, and Don Philipe Bevrier, a wealthy Argentine citizen, is equipping an expedition which, headed by three Americans, will start toward the South Pole in June with this end in view.

raise a crop. When their hunger is satisfied, then they will listen to advice. But hunger is a wolf that gnaws at the vitals of men until they can no longer reason clearly. It is useless to preach patience and loyalty to hungry men.

Photographing Mars.

The South American astronomical expedition cables that the canals of Mars have been seen double and the planets oases have been photographed.

From that we suppose we are to infer that Mars is a desert country save where the water running down from the ice-cap that Mars wears at the north or south pole, gives life to the soil. A kind of Egyptian country in its topographical make-up. That may be so, but we feel about it as did the Scotch woman about John, her husband. She declared that she was satisfied that of all her acquaintances only herself and John would be saved and then added: "And I have me doots about John." The experts report that they have seen the canals doubled. How do they know that it is not the spring rise? What those astronomers are doing is wonderful. We wonder if from their photographs of the oases on Mars they will recognize any trees or flowers or foliage-such as we have on earth? The constituents of the planet are the same as those of the earth; if the season is late up there, why should there not be some crimson ramblers or American beauties?

There are plenty of electric currents dashing through the ether from planet to planet. Why cannot the wireless begin to get in its work? A message direct from one of the stations on Mars would be worth a thousand photographs. A word from the intelligence there to our world, would be like a visible answer to prayer? But, after all, maybe the photograph will bring the needed light. It may catch and picture a station which the people have uplifted there and that to erect a similar one on the earth would be a notice to the dwellers on Mars that we understand. After that it would be easy. The stations would after a time make an alphabet from which words could be formed, and after that it would be easy to communicate.

When science shall have opened a few more doors, what visions will come to mortals, for is it not true that where man stands is only a little lower than the angels?

Canada and Race Assimilation.

The French dominated Canada for two hundred years. Their power was broken when the final battle between Wolfe and Montcalm was fought. That was one hundred and fifty-seven years ago. The French accepted the change; they have since been generally loyal subjects to Great Britain, but there has been practically no assimilation. They are still French in language, customs and religion. How different it has been in New Orleans and St. Louis. They were both founded by the French, but of the old French families, if they are still proud of their origin, they are more proud now that they are Americans. It may be said of the latter that the Americans swept over them, and of the former that the English swept around them, but still it remains true that there has been perfect assimilation on our side; there has been little more mixing in Canada than there is between oil and water. What makes the difference? It must be merely the differences in the institutions of the two countries. Here it has been: "Here, come and join us; this inheritance is for all; help us to make it great and share in its greatness." In Canada it has been: "We may all work together and make this land as glorious as we can, but the glory must add to the glory of that other land beyond the sea to which our first allegiance is due." And so while the Canadian French have toiled on, while five generations of them have lived and died, they have remained French in thought, in act, in custom. Now a writer in the Westminster Review believes that the line in future will be more distinctly marked; says the English descendants are moving west; that in two more decades eastern Canada will be distinctly French, and even anticipates that (as a fire burns back against the wind) the French will soon take and occupy New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. It is one of the strangest evolutions on record. Young Canada pulling out to the Western Dominion. Young France working back toward the mouth of the great river that their navigator, Jacques Cartier, discovered three hundred and seventy-two years

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ULTIME DA MARTE

Da *L'Unità* del 19-02-1926

gravemente feriti

Le ultime sul pianeta Marte

PARIGI 18

Il *New York Herald* riceve da Pheonia (Arizona)

« Il prof Douglas direttore dell osservatorio dell Università ha fatta una di hiarazione da cui risulta che secondo l ultime recenti fotografie la vita sul pianeta Marte deve essere molto simile alla nostra Le fotografie sono state ottenute con l aiuto di lastre rese sensibili ai raggi infrarossi invisibili ad occhio nudo Le parti nere rilevate su Marte sono dovute a vegetazione le fotografie segnalano pure delle nubi ad un altezza di 20 km nell atmosfera marziana

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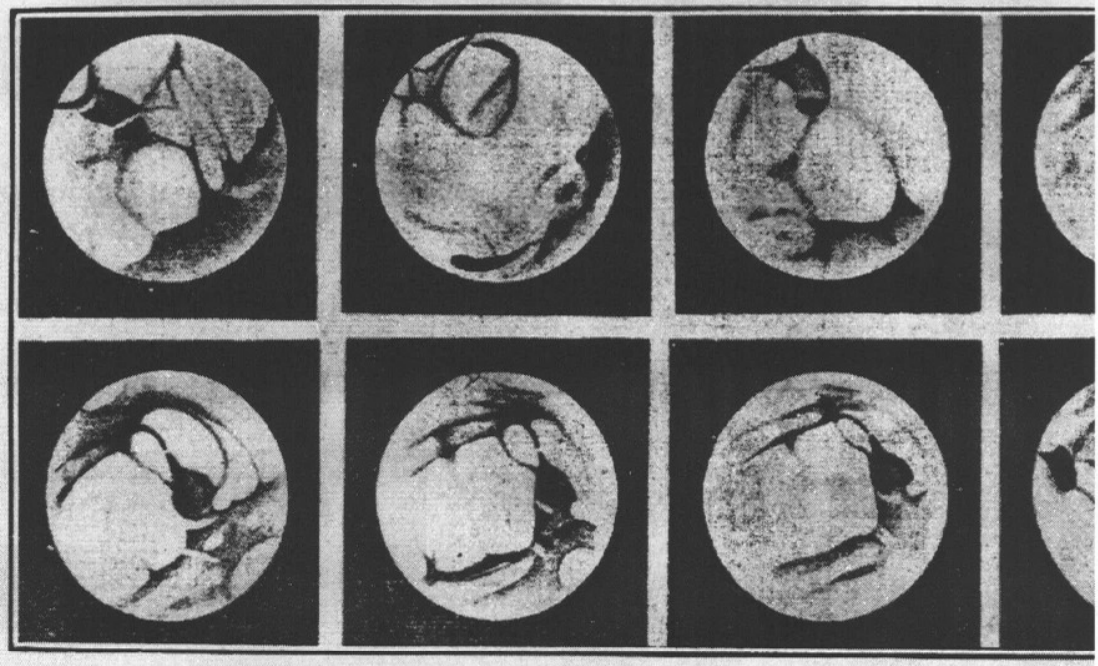
THE EVENING STAR 27-7-1907

Pages 1-6. The Evening

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JULY

EYES OF WORLD'S SCIENTISTS NOW CENTER ON PLANET MARS; PHOTOGRAPHS ADD NEW KNOWLEDGE OF EA



The Curious Markings on the Planet Mars, Which Is Now at Its Nearest Approach to the Ea

Mars is not only a resplendent object in the southern sky these evenings, but astronomers all over the world are studying planet which change with the seasons, and are fancifully called seas and canals, their cause being a matter of dispute. The dr views of the planet taken during a period extending over two months.

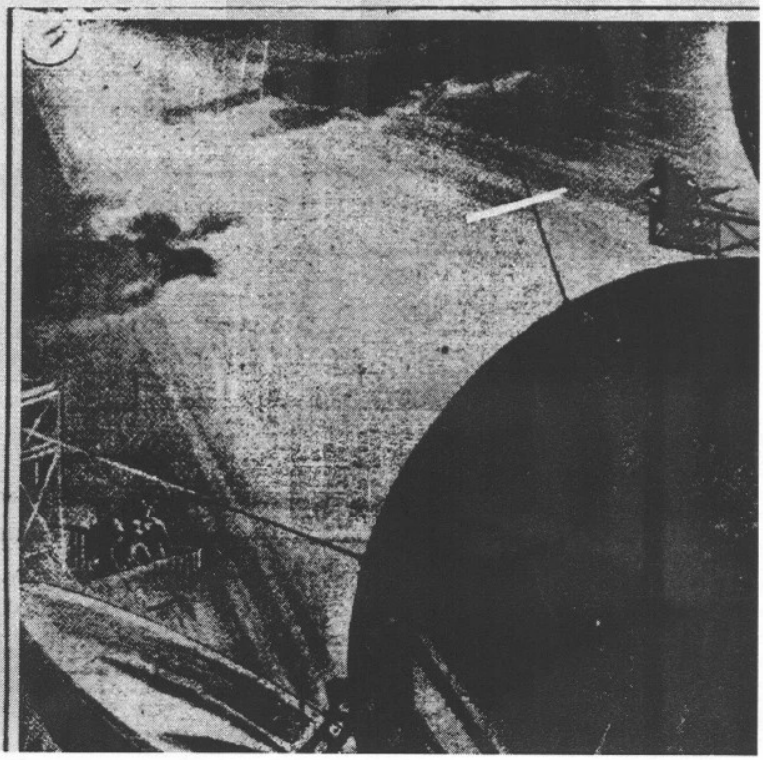
Opposition of Resplendent Satellite, in Nearest Approach to Sister Sphere, Provides Favorable Opportunities for Observations.

Resplendent in the southeastern sky these summer evenings, Mars makes a fine spectacle, and the astronomical specialists who are studying the planet at the various observatories expect to get some remarkable photographs of its curiously marked surface.

At present under the telescope Mars reveals most interesting contrasts to the observer. For the most part it owes its fiery tint to the predominance of reddish, ocher-tinted masses that cover five-eighths of its surface and which are believed to be great stretches of desert, not unlike those on the earth, both in size and hue. But in addition to these ocher areas there are the white polar caps, supposedly ice masses, and blue, green or dark areas fancifully dubbed seas, which spot the surface in a curious manner and are connected by the famous canals which run all over the surface like straight lines laid down by man, and which, like the so-called "seas," are believed to be evidence of vegetation on Mars, if not of the actual existence of water masses in these particular places.

Favorable Conditions for Observers.

This year everything is favorable to the observers, since while Mars at its most distant point at oppositions can be 60,000,000



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miles away from us, this time it is within 38,000,000 miles of the earth, and for several weeks will be the most resplendent object in the southern heavens.

Although at present almost as near the earth as it can ever be, the position of Mars so far south of the equator is a great disadvantage to telescopic observation from northern latitudes. South of the equator, however, the planet will reach a high altitude in the sky, and Prof. Percival Lowell of the famous Flagstaff observatory in Arizona has temporarily established a select staff of trained observers in the Andes, where ideal conditions exist and where Mars will cross the meridian almost in the zenith.

At Flagstaff Mr. Lowell has also made special preparations to study the planet during the opposition, and the splendidly equipped western observatories—particularly the Lick observatory on Mount Hamilton and the new observatory on Mount Wilson, Cal.—as well as certain foreign observatories, will all be busy for the next few weeks studying the permanent physical markings on the planet, which are now believed to be evidences of the existence of sentient intelligent beings on at least one other body of the solar system besides the earth.

Result of Observations.

So far as the Flagstaff work goes, the director has already reported on the observations on Mars as follows:

"The opposition has been productive of increased knowledge of the planet's constitution by the revelation of detail hitherto unseen. This, while extending our acquaintance with the planet, has been completely corroborative of what had previously been learned there.

"The southern polar cap is now in process of melting, and the northern one of making. Although about of the same size at the present moment, the aspect of the two is quite different. In this connection the detection of a difference in their color is significant. While the south polar cap is white, with a faint yellowish tinge, the north polar cap is distinctly bluish. This difference in hue is what freshly fallen snow on new-made ice would present, as compared with that which had been long subjected to weathering and dust. The observation is therefore confirmatory of what has again and again been stated of the substance composing them.

New Canals Discovered.

"The canals proper to this season of the Martian year have been seen in due course, and some new faint ones discovered. The same has been true of the oases.

"As to the photographs of the planet, Mr. Lampland has already secured prints exceeding in definiteness of detail those secured in the last opposition. They confirm in a very remarkable manner the visual details seen on the same date, and are now being enlarged, with a view to publication.

"The expedition to the Andes sent out by this observatory has already been heard from, reporting most satisfactory success. The expedition, which is in charge of Prof. Gedd took with it the eighteen-inch glass of the Amherst observatory, made by Clark; a three and one-half inch, made by Petitdidier, and camera apparatus constructed in duplicate of that used here, to be worked by E. C. Silpher, who was carefully drilled by Mr. Lampland before setting out in the peculiar technique of this new branch of photography. The results have proved all that could be wished. Cables have been received saying that both canals and oases have already been photographed there."

These photographs will go a long way to settle the question of life on Mars, for no one doubts that if the canals really exist they cannot be ascribed to any physical cause, their marked geametrical arrangement compelling the belief that they are artificial and the work of intelligent beings.

Why the supposed Martians should have made these tremendous canals is only ap-

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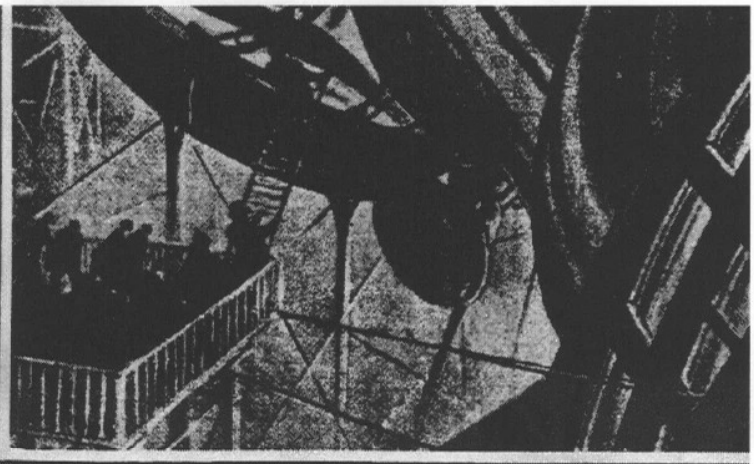

If We Could Signal to the Martians.

This is how M. Janot of Paris thinks we could and would do it. From Mars the Martia
easily see the markings of the seas and continents on the earth if they possess telescopes an
great light areas, such as our illuminated cities, or signal by means of enormous searchlig
the countrymen of Jules Verne. Mars is now but 38,000,000 miles away from us, but to the
trifle.

COLORED BORDERS

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practical wear, some being as fine as a cobweb.

The most novel design shown in these models is a white center with a border in a delicate color fully two inches deep,

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NEW YORK DAILY TRIBUNE 30.12.1906

NEIGHBORS ON MARS.

Percival Lowell's Account of His Observations of the Planet.

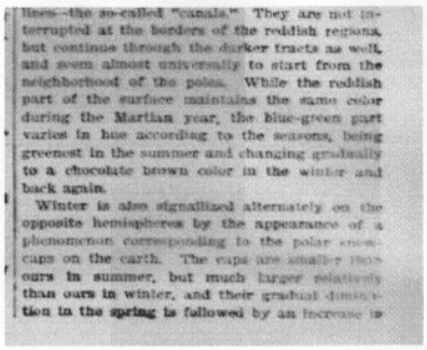
MARS AND ITS CANALS. By Percival Lowell. With twenty-two plates and forty-nine other illustrations. 8vo, pp. xvi, 352. The Macmillan Company.

The explorer is necessarily a person of imagination, and to seek to discredit him because he makes use of this faculty is in reality to give him credit for possessing an essential qualification for his work. The amount of credit to which he is entitled, however, depends not so much upon the extent of his imagination as upon the use he makes of it. It is important to keep these principles in view when passing judgment upon the work accomplished by Mr. Percival Lowell in his many years of observation of Mars, as recounted in his recent volume describing his discoveries and presenting the conclusions that he has drawn from them. Without the imagination which peopled the planet with sentient and reasoning beings as the result of the observations of Schiaparelli, and confirmed by his own later scrutiny, the world would have been deprived of the important data concerning our sister world obtained at the observatory at Flagstaff. If, in the mind of the author, the observed facts serve to substantiate his impulsive hypothesis, it seems only fair to treat his theories with respect, at least until some one equally well equipped to discuss the subject undertakes to refute them by substituting something more reasonable.

It is, of course, likely to be a long while before such an astronomer—or, rather, areographer—presents himself, unless it be in the person of one of Mr. Lowell's own assistants, for the negative impulse is never so strong as the positive, and the doubter has always less initiative than the believer. It would require a motive far greater than a merely contradictory one to lead a person to devote as much time, energy and money to the study of Mars as has been expended by Mr. Lowell. In the mean time it would appear to be both unjust and perversely obstructive to refuse to accept the results of the observations at the Arizona observatory as recorded in Mr. Lowell's book. His methods bear evidence of being strictly in accord with scientific requirements, and his observations have been checked again and again.

Whether or not we choose to follow the author of this book to his ultimate inferences, he at least opens up a field of fascinating conjecture. The work is written in a style as popular as the precise enumeration of the ascertained facts permits, and if the narrative is not in all its details as entrancing as a novel, it nevertheless transports us into a region of superlatively romantic interest. To quote Mr. Lowell's own words: "We are more sure of some things which appear too strange to be true than of others so simple on their face as to enlist belief." Eleven years have passed since he ventured in his first book about the planet to tell of what he had already learned from his inspection of its surface and to describe what he hoped to find there. Since that time the improvement in astronomical instruments and the experience gained from constant use of them have been carrying the observers steadily Marsward, until the apparent optical distance has been wonderfully lessened. Objects and phenomena, at first vaguely perceived, have taken on clearness of definition, and much that was invisible then is now plainly seen. Very suggestive of the advances made in the series of maps of Mars as plotted by astronomers from 1830 to the present day. The impression, as we turn from one to another, is of a gradual growth in definition, an experience which the author states is frequently realized by the observer who finds the "seeing" grow steadily better while he watches. "He will find himself recapitulating in his own person the course taken by discovery for all those who went before, and in the lapse of an hour live through the observational experience of sixty years; in much the same way that the embryological growth of an individual repeats the development historically of the race."

The planet as thus revealed to us shows widespread regions of a reddish-ochre hue, which impart to it the tinge by which it is readily identified by the naked eye. There are, besides, lesser tracts of a blue-green tone, that were originally called oceans and seas, but that now exhibit characteristics incompatible with that nomenclature, though possibly representing former ocean beds. Running in various directions across the surface, but usually following the arcs of great circles, is a network of long, fine



lines—the so-called "canals." They are not interrupted at the borders of the reddish regions, but continue through the darker tracts as well, and seem almost universally to start from the neighborhood of the poles. While the reddish part of the surface maintains the same color during the Martian year, the blue-green part varies in hue according to the seasons, being greenest in the summer and changing gradually to a chocolate brown color in the winter and back again.

Winter is also signalized alternately on the opposite hemispheres by the appearance of a phenomenon corresponding to the polar snow-caps on the earth. The caps are smaller than ours in summer, but much larger relatively than ours in winter, and their gradual diminution in the spring is followed by an increase in

da *New York Tribune* del 3-3-1901

MARS STILL A BIG PUZZLE.

THE PRESENT OPPOSITION MAY HELP TO SOLVE IT.

ASTRONOMERS PERPLEXED OVER THE CANALS, TOPOGRAPHY, POLAR CAPS AND OTHER FEATURES.

The planet Mars has been a conspicuous object in the evening skies for several months, and has now reached its maximum brightness. It was "in opposition" to the sun last Friday. Two or three months hence, owing to increasing distance, it will cease to force itself upon public attention, and will practically disappear for two years. Inasmuch as the centre around which Mars describes its orbit is not very close to the sun, the interval between its path and the earth's is not uniform. In one place they are only 35,000,000 miles apart, and in another fully 60,000,000 miles. It is at the latter point that we are now passing the ruddy planet. A February "opposition" is never so favorable to a study of Martian geography as an August "opposition," therefore, though some of the most striking discoveries have been made at this time of year.

Without doubt the greatest problems which this planet presents to the astronomers relate to the nature of the so-called canals. Percival Lowell believes them to be streaks of dark vegetation, following the course of a system of irrigating ditches. He does not imagine that these channels are forty, fifty and a hundred miles wide, but that branches extend laterally from the main watercourses, so as to feed belts of that width. At no time, according to his view, do the canals themselves become visible. But Mr. Lowell's conjectures, fascinating as they are, have not yet been backed up by demonstrations, and are not entertained by astronomers who are trained in the art of weighing evidences and who carefully distinguish between hypothesis and fact. Another supposition regarding these strange markings is that they are mere fissures in the crust of Mars. A third way of dealing with them is to consider them an optical illusion. Schiaparelli, their discoverer, and Flammarion, one of the highest living authorities on the subject, however, insist on the genuineness of the phenomena, although refraining from any positive declaration as to their nature.

The mystery of the canals is still further heightened by the assertion that at times they appear double. Schiaparelli was the first to announce this peculiarity. He was inclined to suspect that in some way or other the duplication was related to a change of seasons. It was first observed at about the time of the vernal equinox on Mars. The amount of corroborative evidence in support of the occurrence of gemination thus far presented is not great, and although at one time astronomers were inclined to regard the question as settled affirmatively, there has since been a slight reaction in their faith. Antoniadi, for instance, insists that the effect of doubling can be produced in any telescope by a slight inaccuracy in focussing. This explanation has not been received with universal favor. Indeed, it proves too much. Sometimes Schiaparelli, Lowell and others report only two or three canals doubled, and sometimes a score, but at the same time a few other canals appear single. Now Antoniadi's theory seems to require that all shall appear double or all single. As the matter now stands, therefore, there is a great need of further observation with special reference to gemination, and though the distance of Mars at the present opposition is unfavorable to such study, yet the season is at hand when, according to Schiaparelli, the phenomenon ought to be expected.

Puzzling as the canals are, though, they have begun to revolutionize scientific notions regarding the distribution of land and water on Mars. Formerly the orange and pink areas were called continental, and the gray, green and blue oceanic. At first the canals, which are generally gray, were only detected on what were considered land areas, but subsequently they were perceived on what had been regarded as seas. Thus they have suggested the probability that the differences in tint on the planet have been wrongly interpreted. A number of considerations lead to the belief that Mars has very little water anyhow. From year to year the outlines of some of the large green and gray areas are modified, too. Hence it is not at all unlikely that practically all of the visible surface is land, and that some of it is covered with forests or other vegetation, while some of it is bare.

The appearance and disappearance of certain white patches in the polar regions of Mars long [illegible]

and other conditions existing on the ruddy planet.

Professor Campbell has concluded from spectroscopic observations of Mars that it has very little atmosphere. What it has is a practically cloudless air, too, although hazy patches are sometimes discernible in it. No such dense clouds are seen there, though, as on the earth and Venus. The suspicion that the intensely bright spots sometimes seen for a few minutes at a time are dense masses of vapor, catching the sunlight at just the right angle does not seem to be justified. The more plausible explanation is that they are mountain peaks or ranges. Only the boldest imagination will assume that they are signals to the earth.

THE DURLAND COMPANY'S NEW RIDING ACADEMY.

In Sixty-sixth-st., near Central Park West.

SLAUGHTER OF NEWFOUNDLAND GAME.

St. John's letter to The Montreal Gazette.

Startling reports have been received from the interior regarding the reckless slaughter of our magnificent caribou by Newfoundlanders themselves. The destruction this year will double that of last year. A steamer arrived here lately with some five hundred carcasses. Five hundred more are awaiting shipment. Another five hundred are killed, but have not yet been brought out of the woods, and more than five hundred, [illegible], have been destroyed in the [illegible] portion of the island. Two thousand of these splendid animals are thus slaughtered [illegible]. If this goes on, the best [illegible] will become so scarce that [illegible] sportsmen will not [illegible] visit the island.

Were the [illegible] they ought to be by our [illegible] of the island, much of which [illegible] reclaimable, would become the finest game park in the world, being admirably adapted for the sustenance of the [illegible] and deer stalkers from Europe, the United States and Canada, in increasing numbers, would be attracted here. The slaughter has now become an organized affair. A number of traders at different points employ men in little gangs, sometimes as many as fifty or sixty each. They supply them with firearms, ammunition and provisions. The men are very poor and accept miserable wages, hardly enough to keep them alive. They know the deer resorts in winter and form a cordon around the caribou, and in the deep snow they are able to drive them into favorable places, where every one is shot down. Extermination must follow such practices, and that quickly, unless the remedy is applied.

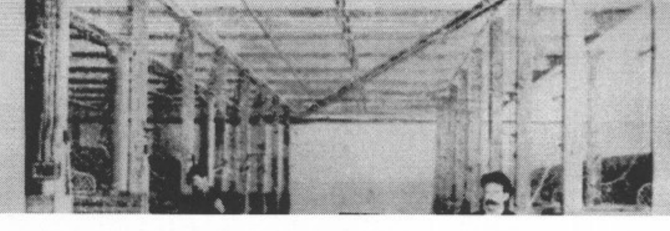
RUSSIAN EVANGELICAL SECTS.

THEIR PERSECUTION BY THE GOVERNMENT.

From The Forum.

Every one has heard a good deal about the Stundists, the Shelaputy, the Doukhobors, and other dissenters of Evangelical type, some of them with a strong tendency toward Quakerism. These deserving people, who are the best specimens of their race, were, and still are, subjected to the most revolting persecutions. They have been beaten, imprisoned, systematically starved, inhumanly tortured, exiled, and their female relatives have been treated in a most shameful and brutal manner. Yet, notwithstanding all these facts, heroic men and women have declined point blank to comply with the orders of the government and the official clergy which they have considered sinful. The movement has created thousands of able and fervent apostles, who, by reason of governmental deportation, are scattered throughout the empire. It has converted millions of unthinking, passive creatures who were until then driven about by the officials and clergy like cattle—into discriminating beings, with a sense of self-respect and a determination to oppose wrong.

Besides, the upheaval of their spirit is being manifested by increasing proselytism, for which purpose some sects, for example in the Tomsk province, train their own missionaries. They also build new chapels, and write polemic books. The movement has found its way into the higher classes of the population, as evidenced by the names of Tchertkov, Biriukov, Tregouboy, Prokhanov, Pashkov, Prince Khilkov, Dr. Volkenstein and others. It has its powerful prophet in the person of Count Tolstoy. It has established its own free press, as the activity of Mr. Tchertkov, at Purleigh, in Essex, and the periodical "Beseveda," formerly published in Sweden, show. It commands the active sympathy of the world, as has been proven by the world's press, by the emigration of five thousand Doukhobors, through the substantial pecuniary aid of the Society of Friends and the money forwarded from England to the suffering Stundists, etc. True, this very emigration may be regarded as a victory for the czar's government, as it has contrived to drive five thousand courageous souls, who knew how to stand by their banner, out of the country, which needs such people badly.



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THE DR[illegible]

From The Satu[illegible]

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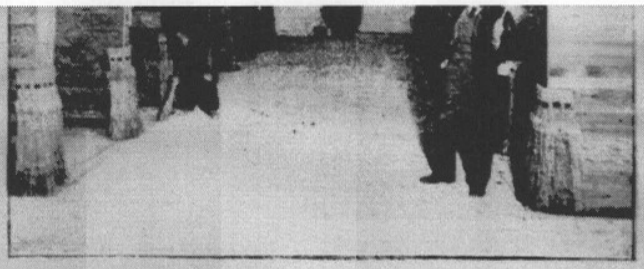
A GIA[illegible]

From The Los A[illegible]

formed there at one season, and melted at another. But this series of events would call for a climate very much like that of the earth, whereas Mars is further from the sun than the earth, and gets less heat from that source than we do. Moreover, being a smaller and probably an older body than the earth, it seems probable that it has radiated off more of its original warmth. Theoretically, it should be much colder than our globe. Should such be the case, then it is not water, but some other substance, which alternately melts and congeals at the Martian poles. Possibly it is carbonic acid, whose transformations from a liquid to a solid state and back again are observed. It is much to be wished that its identity could be established, inasmuch as it would afford a clew to the climate



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da *New York Tribune* del 15-3-1908

Getting a Near View of Mars

By GEORGE E. WALSH

ONE of the questions of the day among astronomers concerns the habitation of the planet Mars by people or animals similar to those which exist on our planet. In the last five years hundreds of thousands of dollars have been expended in trying to get near views of the planet, so that the problem of the Martian canals and inhabitants can be approximately solved.

Not many years ago astronomers relied entirely on observations made through powerful telescopes for their knowledge of the planet's queer changes. Then photography was developed to the point where it could be used with greater effect than the eye, and ever since then pictures of the planet have been taken in great numbers. The photographs reveal changes which often escape the eye, and what is even more to the point they perpetuate any peculiar phenomena for careful study later.

In the recent trip to the Andes to take closer views of the planet, the expedition brought back over seven thousand good photographs. The huge camera used for the exposition had a lens eighteen inches in aperture and twenty-five feet in focal length, and it required great skill to transport it and the telescope fourteen thousand feet above the sea to a bleak plateau on top of the Andes.

What does a camera of such dimensions picture? It sensitive to the telephotographic power in magnifying how the result would be a picture only one-twentieth of an inch in diameter, or about the size of a pinhead. In the camera taken in the expedition to the Andes a lens was used that magnified about five diameters, and even then the photographs were barely three-sixteenths of an inch in diameter. To secure even such tiny pictures the utmost care and attention to details must be observed, and frequently a large number of plates are wasted through some slight accident.

In photographing the planets the powerful lenses ground for the leading observatories have one drawback. They were made for visual observation, so that the yellow and green rays of the spectrum, which most affect the eye, would come to a good focus. In photographic, however, the red and blue rays must come to get clear, sharp pictures.

The result is that the powerful visual telescope will not make good photographic negatives, as the screen absorbs the blue and violet rays and enhances photographic interrupt the rays of light from the planet before they strike the sensitive plates. The rays must travel through millions of miles of space, and then through the atmosphere of the telescope, then through the magnifier, and finally through the color screens. The atmosphere is in a constant state of unrest, and frequently slight disturbances in the air spoil the pictures. To reduce the thickness of the earth's atmosphere through which the light must pass before it strikes the plates, the observatories are located upon high mountains.

For this reason, and the fact that Mars was closer to the earth last summer than at any time since 1892, the expedition to the top of the Andes was undertaken, and from a study of these pictures astronomers hope to solve the problem of whether Mars is inhabited. Failing in this, astronomers will look forward to the summer of 1924, when the planet will be even nearer to the earth than in 1909.

Although much closer to the earth than Jupiter, the planet Mars is not nearly so easy to photograph. The light from Jupiter is much brighter, and its diameter is some two and a half times greater. On this account photographs a full inch in diameter have been taken of Jupiter by the aid of the forty-inch Yerkes telescope, an instrument sixty feet long, and with a magnifier of five diameters. To secure the same size picture of Mars it would be necessary to have a telescope some three hundred feet in length.

To photograph the sun is even easier than to photograph Jupiter, due to its greater brilliance and size. If Mars were as large as the sun and located at the same distance from us, with the same brilliance of surface, it would be possible to secure pictures which would show details of conditions on the planet that would quickly solve many of the problems now agitating the world of science.

Some of the most wonderful photographs of the sun have been taken at the Carnegie Solar Observatory at Mount Wilson, California. These reveal ready more than the spots and the peculiar protuberances that are cast forth from it at times. They have actually revealed the nature of the sun's composition. By means of an instrument called the spectrohelograph it is possible to dip down into the sun's spots and record things transpiring there. Solar storms and disturbances are recorded on the photographs with almost as much exactness as by the Weather Bureau on this planet. Hydrogen, calcium, and other gases can be detected, and their explosive intensity can be measured almost to the mile.

From the Omnibus Box

CITY of Virginia observed the Metropolitan ... and persons with conical ... be turned to Mecca.

"When a Londoner ... wonder ... "Step it up," said Mandy. "Nearly nine times out of a hundred ... and Cary

da *New York Tribune* dell'8-10-1905

Mars, Ahoy!

A SPECIAL PRIZE STORY.

BY CHARLES DORIS, OF EASTERN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL, BROOKLYN.

Professor Daniel Cornelius Smahdy stood gazing out of his study window in the gathering gloom of a summer's evening. He failed, however, to observe that the passersby turned back to gaze a second time upon his tall and slender figure. He was thinking—thinking that at last a way had been found by means of which the universal war would be stopped; thinking, in a word, of the message he had just received from the Martians and how the powers would regard it.

The Earth had just been warned by Mars that, if war did not immediately cease, they—the Martians—would shut off the light of the sun from that part of the Earth wherever and as long as a battle was imminent. The Earthmites had by this time learned that the Martians were not a people to be trifled with. Age had given them knowledge, and knowledge power, and that power they used with good intent. Even as the professor stood thinking, their last message was flying faster, ever faster, to the remotest corners of the Earth.

The professor's thoughts had now changed. They had turned back to the time when he had first startled the world with the announcement that at last a way had been found to reach Mars. At first hazy, dreamy, far away, these thoughts gradually became plainer, clearer, distincter, and now he was passing through the whole affair as on that memorable day.

The first faint gray streaks of dawn were just visible on the eastern horizon. The cloudless sky gave promise of a fine day. Gradually Dame Night hesitatingly, unwillingly drew back her curtain of darkness, and the sun grandly, majestically, sublimely appeared in all his glory, his bright rays bringing warmth and cheer to all.

CHARLES DORIS.
Author of "Mars, Ahoy!"

Daylight revealed in the centre of the city a great mound—too high to be called a hill, not high enough to be taken for a mountain. At its foot were assembled throngs of people, pushing, pulling, kicking and even fighting to get nearer to the mound. For miles around nothing but people could be seen, all wishing to witness this momentous event in the history of the world; to see the attempt made to communicate with Mars. A cordon of guards kept back the crowding, squeezing hordes of excited people. How the ones on foot envied those who could afford to use the radio acting wings, that late, expensive invention. This was a sight long to be remembered.

Suddenly there appeared on the top of the mound what at first looked like a large, irregularly shaped ball, but which gradually took the form of a man. It was the professor, but his body was enveloped by a large rubber bladder, strong and elastic. Loosely hanging from his shoulders were a pair of the best wings procurable, while covering the lower part of his face was an airtight, boxlike case, to the inside of which was attached a mechanical, chemical apparatus for keeping the air in the box continually pure. Over all he wore a close fitting suit of asbestos cloth. Ever since the professor revealed his plan to the scientific world, ever since it was put in motion, the details had been carried out with the greatest exactness. Along the slope of the mound, which had been two years in building, ran a pair of rails, leading, if followed in a straight line, directly to Mars.

Barely had the professor stationed himself on the top of the mound when there sounded the shrill "toot, toot" of a whistle. The next moment a car, fitted at its upper end with an iron plate, was rushing up the track at an almost incalculable rate of speed. At the same time the professor, with almost the same speed, flew toward the oncoming car. As he neared it one wing flopped so as to cause him to turn and strike the car with his back. The crash as those two forces met could be heard miles away. Then, before the spectators knew what had happened, the professor was flying on his five hours' journey to Mars.

Four hours had passed, to him as many ages, and the professor was still flying. As he came under the influence of Mars he felt his speed increase. Now, however, he was almost overwhelmed by one sickening idea: how was he to stop at Mars? All thought had been given to the start, none to the end. Had the scientists thought it would take care of itself? Five more minutes and he would be at Mars; now three; then, with all the speed he had gathered since coming under the influence of Mars he struck the ground. With the despair of a drowning man he threw out his hand and clutched—a wire. It gave way and now he was again on his way to the earth. The return was faster, and in two hours' time, half unconscious, he struck, not land, but water, for, when he bounded from Mars, his course changed the least bit.

All this had been viewed through the powerful telescopes in the Harmann Observatory, and immediately boats had been sent out to rescue the professor, who, as he again came to the surface, was borne up by the bladder—his wings had fallen from his shoulders on striking Mars. As he was taken aboard a ship it was seen he still clutched the wire, which rose high into the air and could be seen until lost in the distance. Immediately it was discovered to be a telephone wire; a receiver was attached; their expectations were realized, and what at first seemed absolute failure had changed to complete success. A short conversation with the Martians revealed the fact that this wire had been made while the preparations, the result of which the Martians had foreseen, were going on.

But what of the professor? He came out none the worse for his journey, and to him was given the honor of keeping this single 'phone to Mars; to him was entrusted that invaluable treasure.

. . . . . .

The dreamer stirred. The gentle silvery rays of the moon were streaming in at the window. A servant entered and announced a visitor. Then, as the professor passed out of his study, he sighed deeply.

da *New York Tribune* del 9-10-1921

Which Will Bare Secrets of Mars—Rocket, Radio or Camera?

Mysteries of Nearest Planet Puzzle Scientists of the World, Who Combine Genius to Evolve a Plan That Will Solve Them

ROCKET, radio or camera—which will be first to lay bare the secret of Mars?

Of course, it isn't at all certain that any one of the three will prove a successful Sherlock Holmes of the skies, but scientists, lured on by an age-old curiosity concerning our neighboring planet, are pressing along all three paths.

The latest development to set the scientific world again agog over the old question of whether there was life on Mars was the announcement from Paris of R. McAfee, American scientist, and Professor David Todd, American astronomer, that they purposed to snapshot the planet by using an abandoned mine shaft in Chile as the barrel for a telescope.

Only a short time before Signor Marconi, of wireless fame, had put a kick of interest in the most fantastic of scientific inquiries by suggesting that a radio signal of 150,000 meters which he had picked up might have come from some Martian armed with a mammoth sending set.

Daring Individuals Offer To Make Trip in Rocket

But it was left to Professor Robert H. Goddard, of Clark College, in Worcester, Mass., to suggest making an investigation of the moon by means of a multiple charge, high efficiency rocket, capable of carrying cameras and other recording apparatus needed to explore the unknown regions of the upper air. As the claim was made that a rocket could be constructed of unlimited cruising power, it has been suggested that it might be shot on to Mars instead of the moon, which many scientists affirm is uninhabited. One or two daring individuals even have volunteered to be shot up in place of a camera.

The possibility that some folk might be wandering up and down the valleys of Mars has excited the curiosity of astronomers and laymen throughout all the ages, for Mars is the nearest planet to the earth and the easiest to observe.

Imaginative writers took their readers on trips to the moon and laid the scenes of their stories in the surroundings of Mars, Saturn and other planets, but there was little scientific knowledge to furnish a basis for such fiction.

The perfecting of the high-powered telescope and the adaptation of photography to the uses of the astronomers quickened their interest in the possibility of life on another world. Mars, which was seen to have large areas of a bluish green and other areas of an ocher red, with patches of white at the poles, was believed by many astronomers to be capable of supporting life in some form.

Schiaparelli Observed Engineering Work on Mars

Schiaparelli, an Italian astronomer, announced in 1877 that he had found the surface of the planet scarred by many lines, which were perfectly straight and seemed to have some system, like vast engineering works. He called the lines canals and said he believed they had been constructed and were not simply cracks in the surface of the planet.

Professor Percival Lowell erected an observatory in Flagstaff, Ariz., many years ago and commenced a systematic observation of Mars. More than ten years ago he startled the world by expressing his belief that Mars was inhabited by intelligent organisms living in a civilization much further the earth, which must appear to the Martians as of immense size, being nine times bigger than Mars.

Marconi Picks Up Radio Signal Thought To Be From Planet

With the development of wireless telegraphy several attempts have been made to get into communication with Mars with high-powered apparatus. Signor Marconi gave encouragement to that field of research recently, when he announced that in the course of experimenting he had picked up a signal with a wave length of 150,000 meters, about six times as long as any commercial apparatus in use to-day. Marconi said the letter V had been repeated several times in international code. He suggested that possibly the inhabitants of Mars were trying to get into communication with the earth.

Two engineers of Omaha devoted two weeks recently to listening for signals from Mars. They kept their apparatus tuned to catch such a message as Marconi described, but they heard nothing.

Controversy has run high over the bold proposal of Messrs. R. McAfee and Todd. A mine shaft in the Chilean Andes, which will point directly at Mars in 1924, will provide the barrel of their telescope, they announced, and a big pan of mercury revolving at high speed at the bottom will provide the mirror. The two Americans calculate that the surface of Mars will be magnified at least 2,000,000 times, bringing it within a few miles of their cameras.

The mine shaft will be widened to fifty feet in diameter and sheathed. The pool of mercury at the bottom will be revolved at such high speed that it will assume a concave shape and become a mirror. The depth of the fortunately placed shaft is so great that there will be sufficient luminosity, the two scientists said, to enable them to take snapshots instead of time exposures.

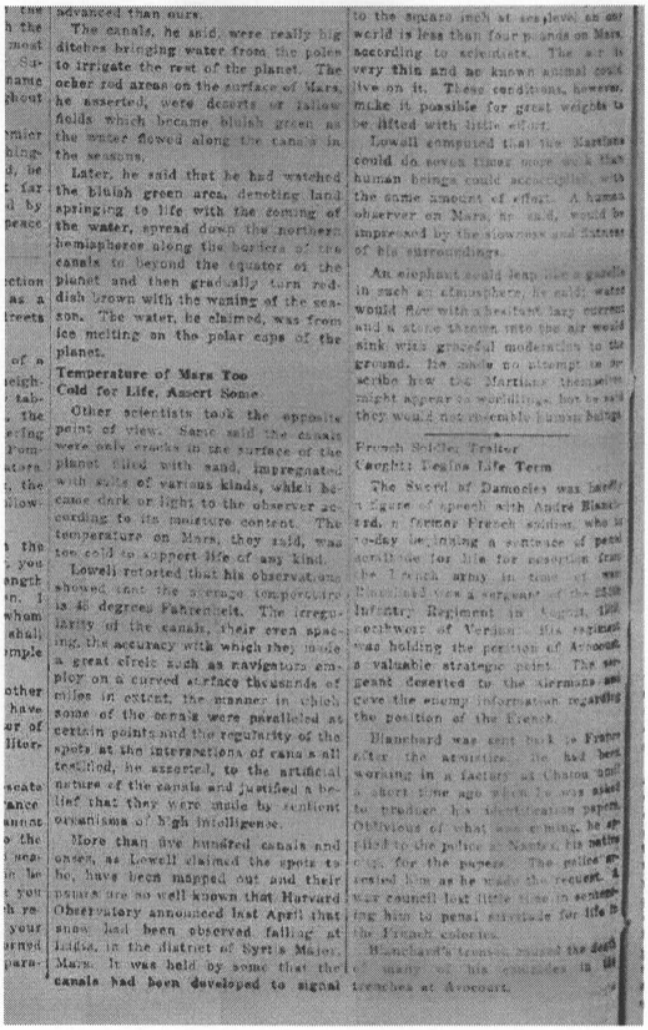
The Goddard proposal for aerial investigations also includes the use of cameras. To summarize his principle, the determining factor of the efficiency of a rocket is the velocity of the ejection of gases due to the explosion of propelling material. By increasing this velocity, through increasing the proportion of the propelling material to weight of projectile, and through a greatly improved nozzle-shaped passage for the escape of gases, Professor Goddard claims to have raised the efficiency of the rocket to nearly 64 per cent.

Many investigators are convinced that life exists on Mars and expect to prove it with the novel telescope. What they will find on their photographic plates is the object of speculation by scientific men the world over.

Lowell Says Surface of Mars Is Level and Uninteresting

Lowell has said that Mars is level and uninteresting, with no mountains and only a few dried-up beds of shallow seas to diversify the topography. More than one-half of it is desert land and the rest is only green when the canals are bringing water from the polar ice caps. Dust storms, which blot out hundreds of square miles of the planet's surface from the view of scientific observers, sweep over its equatorial section.

The physical conditions of Mars are entirely different from those we know on earth. The force of gravity exerted by Mars is only three-eighths that of the earth, while the atmospheric pressure that is about fifteen pounds



advanced than ours.

The canals, he said, were really big ditches bringing water from the poles to irrigate the rest of the planet. The ocher red areas on the surface of Mars, he asserted, were deserts or fallow fields which became bluish green as the water flowed along the canals in the seasons.

Later, he said that he had watched the bluish green area, denoting land springing to life with the coming of the water, spread down the northern hemisphereas along the borders of the canals to beyond the equator of the planet and then gradually turn reddish brown with the waning of the season. The water, he claimed, was from ice melting on the polar caps of the planet.

Temperature of Mars Too Cold for Life, Assert Some

Other scientists took the opposite point of view. Some said the canals were only cracks in the surface of the planet filled with sand, impregnated with salts of various kinds, which became dark or light to the observer according to its moisture content. The temperature on Mars, they said, was too cold to support life of any kind.

Lowell retorted that his observations showed that the average temperature is 45 degrees Fahrenheit. The irregularity of the canals, their even spacing, the accuracy with which they made a great circle such as navigators employ on a curved surface thousands of miles in extent, the manner in which some of the canals were paralleled at certain points and the regularity of the spots at the intersections of canals all testified, he asserted, to the artificial nature of the canals and justified a belief that they were made by sentient organisms of high intelligence.

More than five hundred canals and oases, as Lowell claimed the spots to be, have been mapped out and their points are so well known that Harvard Observatory announced last April that snow had been observed falling at Indis, in the district of Syrtis Major, Mars. It was held by some that the canals had been developed to signal to the square inch at sea level as on world is less than four pounds on Mars, according to scientists. The air is very thin and no known animal could live on it. These conditions, however, make it possible for great weights to be lifted with little effort.

Lowell computed that the Martians could do seven times more work than human beings could accomplish with the same amount of effort. A human observer on Mars, he said, would be impressed by the slowness and fatness of his surroundings.

An elephant could leap over a gazelle in such an atmosphere, he said; water would flow with a heatless lazy current and a stone thrown into the air would sink with graceful moderation to the ground. He made no attempt to describe how the Martians themselves might appear to worldlings, but he said they would not resemble human beings.

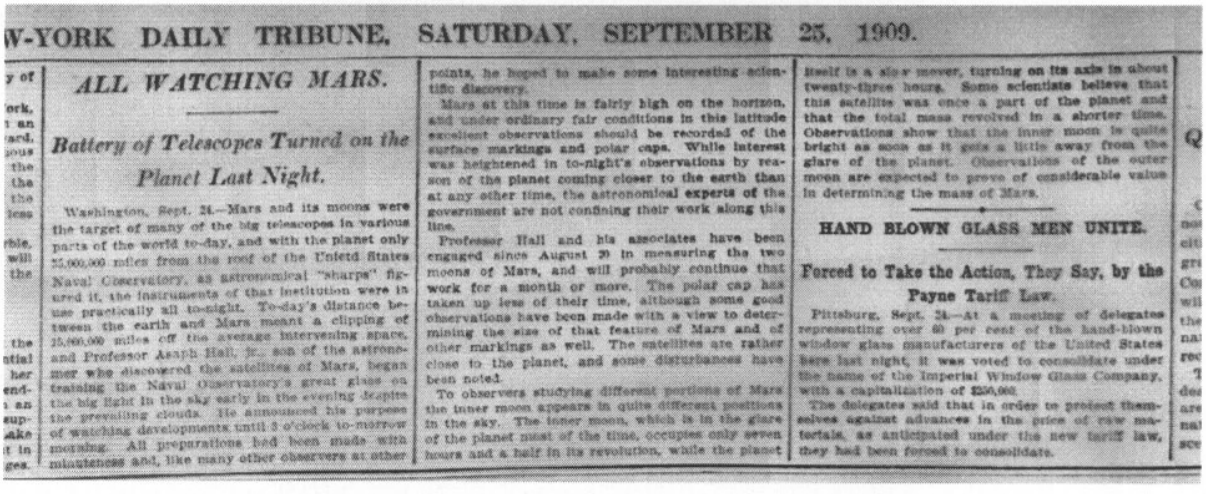
French Soldier Traitor Caught; Dealns Life Term

The Sword of Damocles was [illegible] a figure of speech with André Blanchard, a former French soldier, who is to-day beginning a sentence of penal servitude for life for desertion from the French army in time of war. Blanchard was a sergeant of the 233d Infantry Regiment in August, 1914. Northwest of Verdun his regiment was holding the position of Avocourt, a valuable strategic point. The sergeant deserted to the Germans and gave the enemy information regarding the position of the French.

Blanchard was sent back to France after the armistice. He had been working in a factory at Chalon until a short time ago when he was asked to produce his identification papers. Oblivious of what was coming, he applied to the police at Nantes, his native city, for the papers. The police arrested him as he made the request. A war council lost little time in sentencing him to penal servitude for life in the French colonies.

Blanchard's treason caused the death of many of his comrades in the trenches at Avocourt.

da *New York Tribune* del 25-5-1909



W-YORK DAILY TRIBUNE, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1909.

ALL WATCHING MARS.

Battery of Telescopes Turned on the Planet Last Night.

Washington, Sept. 24.—Mars and its moons were the target of many of the big telescopes in various parts of the world to-day, and with the planet only 35,000,000 miles from the roof of the United States Naval Observatory, as astronomical "sharps" figured it, the instruments of that institution were in use practically all to-night. To-day's distance between the earth and Mars meant a clipping of 25,000,000 miles off the average intervening space, and Professor Asaph Hall, jr., son of the astronomer who discovered the satellites of Mars, began training the Naval Observatory's great glass on the big light in the sky early in the evening despite the prevailing clouds. He announced his purpose of watching developments until 3 o'clock to-morrow morning. All preparations had been made with minuteness and, like many other observers at other points, he hoped to make some interesting scientific discovery.

Mars at this time is fairly high on the horizon, and under ordinary fair conditions in this latitude excellent observations should be recorded of the surface markings and polar caps. While interest was heightened in to-night's observations by reason of the planet coming closer to the earth than at any other time, the astronomical experts of the government are not confining their work along this line.

Professor Hall and his associates have been engaged since August 20 in measuring the two moons of Mars, and will probably continue that work for a month or more. The polar cap has taken up less of their time, although some good observations have been made with a view to determining the size of that feature of Mars and of other markings as well. The satellites are rather close to the planet, and some disturbances have been noted.

To observers studying different portions of Mars the inner moon appears in quite different positions in the sky. The inner moon, which is in the glare of the planet most of the time, occupies only seven hours and a half in its revolution, while the planet itself is a slow mover, turning on its axis in about twenty-three hours. Some scientists believe that this satellite was once a part of the planet and that the total mass revolved in a shorter time. Observations show that the inner moon is quite bright as soon as it gets a little away from the glare of the planet. Observations of the outer moon are expected to prove of considerable value in determining the mass of Mars.

HAND BLOWN GLASS MEN UNITE.

Forced to Take the Action, They Say, by the Payne Tariff Law.

Pittsburg, Sept. 24.—At a meeting of delegates representing over 60 per cent of the hand-blown window glass manufacturers of the United States here last night, it was voted to consolidate under the name of the Imperial Window Glass Company, with a capitalization of $250,000.

The delegates said that in order to protect themselves against advances in the price of raw materials, as anticipated under the new tariff law, they had been forced to consolidate.

Torna all'Emeroteca
Torna all'Home Page

CIO' CHE SAPPIAMO SU MARTE

da *Evening Star Sunday Magazine* del 10-3-1907

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT MAR

By James Harton

AS to seven of the worlds circling in space about our sun, no one ever inquires whether they are peopled; while the eighth, Mars, which lies next to Jupiter, the giant of the sun's family, is commonly regarded as the most interesting, tantalizing, and best known world of them all. The question, "Are there human beings on Mars?" has been asked for ages, especially since the puzzling streaks known as canals were discovered. They were supposed to be the work of human agency, though of what kind of persons has so far been left to the imagination of speculative fictionists.

Are they like us? Or would they regard us in the manner of Voltaire's Micromégas, the giant from the star Sirius, who concluded because his ears did not hear the voices of men that they were not endowed with speech. "How is it possible," asks the man from the Dog Star, "that such atoms should have organs of voice? To think," he continues, "must mean speech; but to attribute a mind to these little creatures would be absurd." And precisely such thoughts animate us when we contemplate the activities of little insects.

Similar to the Earth

MUCH attention has been given to the question as to whether Mars is in the same state of evolution as our earth, and whether it receives the same amount of daily solar radiation, which in our case amounts, according to the great astronomer Camille Flammarion, to twenty thousand quadrillions of steam horse power. It is thought that Mars is surrounded by an atmosphere somewhat similar to ours, and that on its surface are seas, rivers, ice, snow, land masses, mountains, and so on. From this it is inferred that probably life exists too. But this is a term hard to define; yet it has a clear cut meaning with us. Every form of life that we know has for its physical basis a certain chemical compound called protoplasm, which can exist and perpetuate itself only within a narrow range of temperature, which may be taken roughly as between zero and one hundred degrees Fahrenheit. Moreover, a vital adjunct is the existence of water.

These conditions may very well exist on Mars, which presents to us the appearance of a solid crust, possibly provided with water and atmosphere. Fortunately, Mars is a little farther from the sun than we are; consequently, when its disk is largest the whole of the illuminated portion is turned toward the earth. Moreover, at such times, under favorable conditions, our earth and Mars approach each other closer than usual, enabling us to study the surface of our neighbor world and indulge in fascinating speculation as to whether the smaller planet is another earth with an atmosphere, seas, rivers, and mountains.

Mars is little more than half the size of this globe, and revolves outside our path. It was discarded from the original central mass that gave birth to all the planets sometime previously to our earth. And so it should have reached approximately the same state of evolution. Minute examination of our interesting neighbor shows a planet with a really solid surface. This point is proved by many of the Martian markings being strictly permanent—they can be recognized after long intervals.

Perhaps the most striking features of the planet's surface are the white markings or caps at the poles. These are seen simultaneously only at rare intervals, owing to the tilt of Mars's axis. But when one pole is turned toward the earth, the brilliant polar cap becomes most prominent; nor do the caps remain the same size. With the advent of the Martian spring the winter cap gradually shrinks, and a month or two after midsummer there is very little left of it at all. In fact, these polar caps on our neighbor world behave precisely as do our own polar snows. Turning to other sections of the planet's disk, we find these diversified by light and dark markings; the latter of a gray or green tint, and the former bright orange. The lighter parts greatly predominate, and are generally supposed to represent land. The dark markings, termed "seas" by the astronomers, may very well be water, although some of them may represent vegetation of some kind.

Many Permanent Canals

ABOUT the equator of the planet the dark markings take the form of very long, dusky, narrow streaks which interlace; their points of intersection being very conspicuous as dark spots. The long streaks are the well known channels or "canalli" of Schiaparelli; while the dark spots are termed oases. These channels are of great length; some of them measure several hundreds of miles. The more extensive are permanent features of the planet's surface, and have been carefully mapped by geographers of the sky.

But the wonderful network of Mars's canals is rendered more mysterious by appearing occasionally doubled; that is to say, in place of one canal there will be two in parallel lines. This condition lasts a certain time, and then gives place to a single canal. These are the chief features of the planet's surface. Other markings there are tending to show that Mars is a miniature earth. Thus, light clouds, conclusively proving that there is an atmosphere, are observed to obliterate for a time regions of the Martian landscape. And dazzling spots flash out and disappear —a phenomenon caused, it is conceded, by the reflection of some light from the flanks of snowy mountains. Then again, projections are noticeable on the edge of the planet's disk, indicating that there is land at

Then too, the periodical chang ly being watch mers in all the the earth. H trained observe the eye pieces o follow the sta photographicall and phenomena

Besides the m in the Martia develops about water was com cap. Later th from the pole, near the equat And markings on the disk now become indefinite. So to blur the contour of island for the time certain areas. become more prominent an and width.

The Irrigating

IT is inferred from these a that we are watching the spreading over the planet's land for another season of st vegetation is seen as a wave o successively through the bl pole to equator. The hue is to change in spring, deepen and at last dies out in the fall are supposed to represent the water, whose direct pre very perceptible to us. Its observed, for it eventually fi equatorial regions, where it in the channels.

Altogether it is thought t different from this earth. I wonderfully free from clou dense than ours. This sugg subject to great vicissitude that the people of Mars, if t fundamentally different from less, there are on Mars near the existence of man as we k possible that we see in the pl own earth will reach when i more rare and is incapable from the sun.

As is well known, many fa been made for signaling to M fascinating theory that the habited by some strange ra colossal illuminations, or a ri the world, was suggested, wh be seen and answered by o other world. But astrono such wondrous discoveries, increase steadily in power t may reasonably suppose one around us will yield up som secrets. Perhaps it was of "Other sheep I have that ar also I must bring."

Torna all'Emeroteca
Torna all'Home Page